The University of Aarhus now covers the whole of Denmark. Like a newly opened flower, the university has expanded to embrace virtually every area of the community. In 2006 and 2007, the University of Aarhus merged with a number of distinguished Danish education and research institutions. This expansion is not only a Danish, but also a global challenge. Denmark has a reputation as a country whose people are committed to education and research at a high international level, in close interaction with the surrounding community. This tradition will be maintained and strengthened at the University of Aarhus, firmly anchored in a new strategy.

The mergers are already providing unique, alternative opportunities for interdisciplinary research and education for the benefit of both students and researchers, as well as the authorities and the business community. These interdisciplinary combinations provide exceptional opportunities. The university combines quality in its services with diversity – a diversity that also makes sure that the university is in wide-reaching contact with all the important sectors of society.

The University of Aarhus stands for more than research and a focus on world-class degree programmes. The new University of Aarhus will provide research-based advice to the authorities in the areas of the environment, nature, agriculture and health. As an urban community, Aarhus stands out for a study environment that is social, warm and vibrant, and for the large population of young people aged 17 to 34. This is where 35,000 university students meet other young people from both Denmark and abroad, sharing the outdoor and cultural experiences offered by Denmark’s second-largest city. They are brought
Together in a special Aarhus campus environment. The University of Aarhus also has educational environments in Herning and Copenhagen, as well as research and PhD programmes in a number of other Danish towns and cities. With more than 20 locations in Denmark, the University of Aarhus has become the country’s new, nationwide university.

This brochure provides you with a glimpse of the University of Aarhus the way it appears today. It is impossible, of course, to give a complete picture of all the exciting activities in education and training, research, knowledge transfer and research-based advice to the authorities. I therefore hope, when you read this publication, that you will use it as a source of inspiration to delve deeper into whatever interests you most. This includes finding out more in some of the other brochures published by the University of Aarhus, searching the university’s numerous web sites – there are several hundred thousand of them – or contacting some of the members of staff.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen
Rector

A rectorate well prepared for the future. The entire rectorate for the University of Aarhus fell into place in September 2007 with the appointment of Niels Højberg as the new director of administration.

From left Rector Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen, Director of Administration Niels Højberg, Pro-rector for Knowledge Transfer Mette Boch and Pro-rector for Academic Affairs Nina Smith.
The university’s nine main academic areas

Six faculties, two university schools and NERI

**Health Sciences**  Research at the Faculty of Health Sciences belongs to the absolute elite. The biomedical research at the faculty ranks among the five best in the Nordic countries, and the faculty has a strong position in the area of public health.

Training to be a doctor – and research involving patients – takes place in close interaction with the Aarhus University Hospital, where the faculty’s clinical professors and associate professors are employed (see pages 50–51). The training programme for dentists has its own clinics and is attached to the School for Dental Assistants, Hygienists and Clinical Technicians.

**Humanities**  Culture, languages, IT, the media, philosophy, aesthetics, history and archaeology: there is a wide range of educational options and research at the seven institutes at the Faculty of Humanities.

Research carried out at the faculty is just as extensive as the degree programmes. The researchers communicate their findings via books and journals, museums and lectures, including those held by the People’s University. Most recently, the faculty has begun to offer customised courses for private companies.

The students have good opportunities for periods of practical training in public or private sector companies, and the faculty has more than 200 exchange agreements with universities all over the world.

**Social Sciences**  The social sciences degree programmes cover the subjects economics, business administration, law, political science and psychology. The University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology (AU-IBT) in Herning also offers degree programmes in business administration, languages and business communication, as well as engineering science.

Researchers at the Faculty of Social Sciences contribute actively to the public debate by taking part in high-profile councils, boards and committees, and the research in many areas is distinctive for its very high international standard. The faculty makes targeted efforts to attract even greater numbers of highly qualified Danish and foreign students to the Graduate School of Social Sciences.

**Theology**  The Faculty of Theology offers degree programmes in theology, the study of religion and Arabic. The Church of Denmark, upper secondary schools, humanitarian organisations, public institutions and private companies are typical workplaces for the faculty’s graduates.

Research into theology and the study of religion currently focuses on subjects such as religion and normativity, Christianity in Antiquity, religion and cognition, Islam, and religion, politics and law. Arabic is currently built up with a focus on modern language and social conditions in the Middle East.

**Science**  The degree programmes at the Faculty of Science currently cover the entire area of natural and technical science, from the smallest (nanotechnology) to the largest (astronomy); from the theoretical (mathematics) to the practical (physical education and sport); and from the natural (biology and geology) to the man-made (medical chemistry). It has also been possible in recent years to study for a graduate engineer degree in several areas.

Research in most areas is recognised at the highest international level. This research is carried out in an international environment – often financed by grants from private foundations, state research programmes or the EU, and frequently in collaboration with private companies.

**Agricultural Sciences**  The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) is a result of the merger between the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Aarhus. The faculty is in the process of planning agricultural science degree programmes. These are expected to begin in 2008 although they have contributed to the education and training of researchers for many years.
DJF has extremely modern laboratories and experimental facilities at its disposal, including barns, greenhouses and semi-field facilities. In addition, there are approximately 1,300 hectares for research, experiments and feed production.

The Aarhus School of Business (ASB) The Aarhus School of Business is a university school at the University of Aarhus. It offers degree programmes in commercial languages, business administration, business communication, commercial law, European studies and IT. All these degree programmes focus on private companies, and the business community employs most graduates from the school.

Research at the Aarhus School of Business extends from social science aspects of the business administration area to humanistic subjects such as languages and business communication – a combination that enables a uniquely relevant amount of interdisciplinary work.

The Danish School of Education (DPU) The Danish School of Education (DPU) – formerly the Danish University of Education – is a university school at the University of Aarhus. DPU offers more than twenty advanced studies programmes in the field of education.

Research at DPU covers the entire area of education and includes subjects such as didactics, competence development in adult and continuing education, pedagogy in relation to target groups with special needs, the educational consequences of the use of the media and IT, international comparative education conditions, the education of teachers and social educators, and general educational theory development.

The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) Water, soil, air, animals and plants.

The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) explores the environment and nature, such as the spread of air pollution, the effects of nanotechnology, how to avert agricultural impact on the water environment, and how green taxes affect the environment and society.

NERI collaborates with the faculties at the university regarding education, where there are plans to set up new offers that are relevant to the environmental sector, e.g. environmental economics, the environment and agriculture, and the environment and health.
University of Aarhus facilities

Following the mergers in 2007, the University of Aarhus is now an education and research institution with facilities all over Denmark.

- Askov: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Askov Experimental Station
- Bygholm: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Bygholm Research Centre
- Copenhagen: The Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus
- Flakkebjerg: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Flakkebjerg Research Centre
- Foulum: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
- Frederiksberg: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Cell Wall Biology and Molecular Virology
- Herning: The University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology
- Jels: Orion Planetarium
- Jyndevad: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Jyndevad Experimental Station
- Kalø: The National Environmental Research Institute
- Klim: The University of Aarhus, Geological Field Station, Klim
- Lyngby: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sorgenfrisk Research Centre
- Mønsted: The University of Aarhus, Geophysical-Geological Field Laboratory, Mønsted
- Roskilde: The National Environmental Research Institute
- Rønbjerg: The Marine Biology Station, Rønbjerg
- Sandbjerg: Sandbjerg Estate – University of Aarhus Conference Centre
- Silkeborg: The National Environmental Research Institute
- Søborg: Aarhus University Hospital, Søborg Hospital
- Aalborg: Aarhus University Hospital, Aalborg Hospital
- Årslev: The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Årslev Research Centre
- Aarhus: Rectorate and Administration
- The Faculty of Humanities
- The Faculty of Health Sciences
- The Faculty of Social Sciences
- The Faculty of Theology
- The Faculty of Science
- The Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus
- Aarhus University School of Business, University of Aarhus
- Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus Hospital
- Aarhus University Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital in Aarhus
- Aarhus University Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents
- Askov The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Askov Experimental Station
- Bygholm The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Bygholm Research Centre
- Copenhagen The Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus
- Flakkebjerg The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Flakkebjerg Research Centre
- Foulum The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
- Frederiksberg The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Cell Wall Biology and Molecular Virology
- Herning The University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology
- Jels Orion Planetarium
- Jyndevad The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Jyndevad Experimental Station
- Kalø The National Environmental Research Institute
- Klim The University of Aarhus, Geological Field Station, Klim
- Lyngby The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sorgenfrisk Research Centre
- Mønsted The University of Aarhus, Geophysical-Geological Field Laboratory, Mønsted
- Roskilde The National Environmental Research Institute
- Rønbjerg The Marine Biology Station, Rønbjerg
- Sandbjerg Sandbjerg Estate – University of Aarhus Conference Centre
- Silkeborg The National Environmental Research Institute
- Søborg Aarhus University Hospital, Søborg Hospital
- Aalborg Aarhus University Hospital, Aalborg Hospital
- Årslev The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Årslev Research Centre
- Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus Psychiatric Hospital
- Aarhus University Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents

University Board for the University of Aarhus

Rectorate for the University of Aarhus
Rektor, 2 Pro-rektors, Director of Administration
The mergers have resulted in a considerable number of projects and academic synergies. On 1 July 2007, interdisciplinary initiatives were specified in the following areas:

- **Enormous potential in biofuel from the sea.** In one of the AUFF projects, researchers from the National Environmental Research Institute, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences will investigate whether it is possible to use macroalgae such as sea lettuce (Ulva lactuca) to produce bioethanol. Sea lettuce is a large green algae that exists naturally in Danish waters and grows very rapidly. The scientists will study the algal growth and let the algal mass ferment in the laboratory to test the amount of bioethanol that can be produced.

**Funds for 16 interdisciplinary projects**

The University of Aarhus Research Foundation (AUFF) has decided to grant DKK 48 million to research projects at the new University of Aarhus during the period 2007–2011. A total of 45 applications were received for the first round of grants, and the foundation decided to support 16 of these with funds amounting to DKK 8 million. A condition stipulated by the foundation is that at least one party from the four new main academic areas must participate in each project and at least one from the previous five.

**MERGER PROJECTS**

**Ideas for interdisciplinary degree programmes and research projects are flourishing**

The mergers have resulted in a considerable number of projects and academic synergies. On 1 July 2007, interdisciplinary initiatives were specified in the following areas:

**DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

Humanistic organisational development  
Agriculture and food degree programmes  
Public health  
Human ecology  
Molecular nutrition  
Social science

- Progress in developing countries  
- Experience economy  
- Food  
- Profession and management  
- Communication of research results  
- Danish developing countries consortium  
- Microbiology  
- GIS and GEO Data Centre  
- Baltic Nest Institute  
- Life Watch

**RESEARCH**

- Humanities, Agricultural Sciences  
- Humanities, School of Business  
- Humanities, Agricultural Sciences, School of Business, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, National Environmental Research Institute  
- School of Business, Humanities  
- Humanities, Agricultural Sciences  
- Entire University of Aarhus  
- Health Sciences, Science, Agricultural Sciences, National Environmental Research Institute  
- Agricultural Sciences, Science, National Environmental Research Institute, Humanities  
- National Environmental Research Institute, Science  
- National Environmental Research Institute, Science
A **visionary** University of Aarhus

The University of Aarhus faces rapidly increasing competition, which it is well prepared for. The university draws on a strategy for 2008–2012, which ensures that all the potential achieved by the merger can be expanded. The university’s core services in research, education and training, talent development, research-based advice to the authorities and knowledge transfer will be developed on the strength of the quality of its services and its diversity – a diversity that also provides the university with wide-reaching contact with all the important sectors of society.

The strategy will ensure well-balanced development of the core services, with significant growth in the overall resources the university expects to gain in the years ahead. It will also ensure a correlation between development within the internal support functions and infrastructure and the focus areas selected by the university.

![The mission of the University of Aarhus](image)
is to ensure and develop knowledge, welfare and culture by means of research and research-based education and training, communication and consultancy.

![The vision of the University of Aarhus](image)
is to belong to the elite among universities and to contribute to the development of national and global welfare via outstanding research and world-class degree programmes.

![The fundamental values of the University of Aarhus](image)are based on the ethical challenges regarding freedom and independence described in the Magna Charta of European Universities. The searching, critical work undertaken by the staff and students at the University of Aarhus is carried out in open, dynamic interaction with the external environment.

### BUDGET FOR 2007 (DKK 1,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Ordinary earnings</th>
<th>External funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor</strong></td>
<td>13,830</td>
<td>14,637</td>
<td>35,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master</strong></td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>5,728</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part-time</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,493,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACCOUNTS (income) as of 31.12.2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>DKK 1,000</th>
<th>PER CENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ordinary earnings</strong></td>
<td>2,962,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>External funds</strong></td>
<td>1,531,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,493,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS (expenses) as of 31.12.2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>DKK 1,000</th>
<th>PER CENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>976,326</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>194,363</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management, admin. and service</strong></td>
<td>257,941</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings</strong></td>
<td>661,681</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,088,291</strong></td>
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</table>

### TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS as of 31.12.2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,279</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### POSITIONS (full-time equivalent) as of 31.12.2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ADM</th>
<th>SUPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td>390</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Sciences</strong></td>
<td>568</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Sciences</strong></td>
<td>316</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theology</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>663</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural Sciences</strong></td>
<td>305</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aarhus School of Business (ASB)</strong></td>
<td>231</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DPU</strong></td>
<td>237</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NERI</strong></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration and service</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,088</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,941</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total staff</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6,029</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The buildings in and around the University Park at the University of Aarhus have been extended somewhat over the years. The first building, which was completed in 1933, is located on a promontory projecting on the eastern side of the moraine gully and currently houses a number of the social sciences subjects.

The building has remained the same with isolated modifications ever since the architects Kay Fisker, C. F. Møller and Povl Stegmann won the architectural competition arranged in 1931. Since 1939, C. F. Møller Architects have been responsible for construction work.

The characteristic yellow brick buildings in the University Park now cover a total floor area of 246,000 square metres. The uniform building style means that the university’s individual buildings create an attractive campus, which has received international recognition. In 2006, the campus was one of the 12 architectural works listed in the Canon of Danish Art and Culture issued by the Danish Ministry of Culture, which wrote: “Erected in the 1930s, the University of Aarhus hints at brighter times for Aarhus and Denmark. The architecture is modern, and immediately anti-monumental, as an organic interpretation of the open campus in the centre of the city. It also provides distinctive and solid evidence of how a major structure in an urban context can develop with beauty and with soul over a period of more than 70 years.

The university buildings are set around a valley, rhythmically positioned, correctly distanced, in perfect harmony with the landscape, and such that the valley itself remains virginal. All wings are built in one material only – yellow bricks for the facings, roofs and paving – which makes the building structures stand out as uniform, simplistic and prismatic with clean saddle roofs without overhang. At the top, the main building with the main hall screens off the area from the Ringgaden circular road, boasting a more expressive idiom in contrast to the matter-of-fact character of the individual faculty buildings.

The University of Aarhus is a tribute to tile as a building material. The brick tiles knit the buildings closely together in harmony with the surrounding landscape, creating a subdued monumentality with a regional Danish character, most clearly evidenced by the main hall building with its gable end throning over the valley.”
From research support to the Bygherreprisen property development award

The University of Aarhus Research Foundation is a private business foundation with funds that come from a company called Auriga Industries A/S. The aim of the foundation is to support scientific research at the University of Aarhus, and annual grants for research amount to approximately DKK 75 million. The foundation was set up in 1944 when Gunnar Andreasen – graduate engineer and owner of A/S Cheminova at that time – handed over the company to the university. Cheminova is currently owned by the Auriga Group, of which the research foundation is the main shareholder.

FEAS – Forskningsfondens Ejendomsselskab A/S – was established in 1987 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Aarhus Research Foundation. During the 1990s, FEAS was the property developer and driving force behind the setting up of buildings such as Science Park Aarhus and the Biomedical Science Park in Skejby, the IT City Katrinebjerg, the Nobel Park and accommodation for visiting researchers from abroad.

In 2004, FEAS won the Danish Bygherreprisen award for its impressive property development efforts in Aarhus, mainly the development and construction of the Nobel Park. “This isn’t the Nobel Prize. However, it’s the only merit award a property developer can get in Denmark, and it carries a lot of prestige. This year, we were in no doubt that the prize should go to the Nobel Park,” said Palle Adamsen, Danish Association of Construction Clients, in stating his grounds for awarding the prize.
The history of the university

From one single faculty to nine main academic areas

In 2007, the University of Aarhus suddenly became very large and now covers the whole of Denmark. The “old” University of Aarhus merged with the Aarhus School of Business, the Danish University of Education, the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the National Environmental Research Institute. The number of students rose to 35,000, and there are now 10,000 members of staff.

However, the story goes back 79 years to 1928, when a professor of philosophy and four senior associate professors of French, English, German and Danish launched “University education in Jutland”. The Municipality of Aarhus made an annual budget of DKK 40,000 available and thus helped ensure that the university could welcome the first 78 students in rented classrooms in the Technical College in September 1928.

Ever since then, the university has been in a state of constant development. New subjects have sprung up and the faculties have changed their structure.

The first subjects at the university were philosophy and languages at the Faculty of Humanities. Medicine was taught for the first time in 1933, and the Faculty of Economics and Law opened in 1936, only to become the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1968. Until 1942, theology was a field of study under the Faculty of Humanities, but subsequently became a faculty in its own right. Finally, the Faculty of Science was set up in 1954.

In 1992, the Faculty of Medicine merged with the School of Dentistry, which had previously been an independent educational establishment. This involved a change of name to the Faculty of Health Sciences. In 2006, the Herning Institute of Business Administration and Technology merged with the Faculty of Social Sciences.

And 2007 saw the addition of yet another faculty – the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. Two university schools came under the same “umbrella” – the Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus and the Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus – along with the National Environmental Research Institute. The University of Aarhus now embraces virtually every area of the community.

Sheep grazed on the first lawns – they were soon removed, however, partly because their bleating drowned out the lectures.
The most significant event in the research world at the University of Aarhus took place on 15 October 1997. That was the day it was announced that Professor Emeritus Jens Christian Skou, DrMedSc, from the Faculty of Health Sciences, had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Within a matter of a few hours, Denmark’s media were in a whirl of excitement and the unobtrusive retired professor – who rode a bicycle to his office at the university every day – became famous throughout the country.

There were newspaper articles, TV broadcasts, radio programmes, special classes for fifth-year schoolchildren, educational material for upper secondary schools, scientific symposiums, conferences and articles, tributes and speeches from politicians, colleagues, friends and family, festive lectures, books – and all the way through, the 79-year-old Skou kept on obstinately repeating his message: “Leave the young researchers in peace and give them sufficient funds for their experiments and many years of concentrated research.”

In 1954, the Sandbjerg Estate in Sundeved near the Alssund sound was handed over to the University of Aarhus. Sandbjerg had been bought in 1930 by Knud Dahl, a barrister from Copenhagen, and his wife, Ellen Dahl, after it had been owned by the Reventlow family for about 250 years.

The Dahls were deeply involved in the conditions and problems of the region around the border between Denmark and Germany, and had originally planned to bequeath Sandbjerg for national purposes intended to strengthen the Danish efforts in South Schleswig. However, Knud Dahl died in 1945 and Ellen Dahl decided in 1954 to leave Sandbjerg to the University of Aarhus. On her death in 1959, the university acquired the right of disposal over the estate.

The attractive buildings have been renovated and extended over a period of years and the conference centre now includes 72 guest rooms, lecture theatres for 70 and 45 people, respectively, and a considerable number of meeting and group conference rooms.
Free guided tours of the University of Aarhus are available for all interested groups, such as schools, associations, companies and clubs. These tours are arranged by students, who conduct them in Danish or English. The guides have in-depth knowledge of both the university in general and what it means to be a student. A typical tour takes from 90 minutes to 2 hours and includes

- a tour of the university’s buildings and the University Park
- a general introduction to the university’s studies, history, organisation and architecture
- snippets about life as a student

Tours can also be combined with a visit to one of the university’s museums, including lunch or coffee in one of the canteens. Call +45 8942 2340 or send an e-mail to info@au.dk.

Past, present, future – and the tropics

- **The greenhouses in the Botanical Gardens** consist of five houses, in which plants from the Mediterranean, subtropical deserts, tropical mountain forests, tropical monsoon climate and tropical rainforest are represented. A decision was recently made to begin extensive restoration of the attractive old greenhouses, the largest of which – the Palm House – will be converted into a new botanical information centre, and the complex will also be extended to include a new tropical greenhouse. The project will be completed in 2010.

- **The Steno Museum** shows how science and medicine have been part of cultural and societal development for thousands of years. These subjects have never played such a major role as they do today, and the museum provides insight into the dynamic development that has given science this prominent position, including the way in which it has frequently been necessary to change or completely discard time-honoured notions of the formation of the world.

- **The Orion Planetarium** in the South Jutland town of Jels uses its operations, exhibitions, lectures and other arrangements to provide information about scientific ways of thinking, methodologies and research results. The planetarium shows teaching programmes and exhibitions about astronomy, space travel, physics, chemistry and biology via hands-on trials of different activities.

- **The Museum of Ancient Art** houses almost 4,000 ancient artefacts, one of the most important collections of coins in the Nordic countries and more than 500 plaster casts. In terms of geography, items from Greece and Italy are the main feature, but the collection also includes finds from the Near East and Egypt – including a mummy. The museum is a study collection, but also has appeal for groups such as upper secondary school classes, artists and people with a general interest.

- **Ole Rømer Observatory.** In 1909, when the Aarhus City Council adopted a proposal to build the observatory, the decision included the statement that “the observatory should be made available for teaching”. Today – almost a century later – teaching still takes place in the now preserved building. The Ole Rømer Observatory is open to the public from September to April, where approximately 15 free presentations are held every month.
What the brain is capable of

What is the significance of the brain and what is it capable of? This is the question that researchers at the Faculties of Health Sciences and Humanities have decided to find out.

“Cognition, communication and culture” – which this research is part of – is one of numerous research priority areas that all have their starting point in boosting collaboration between the faculties at the University of Aarhus.

This project and the research collaboration have already attracted significant coverage in research circles due to a number of ground-breaking results, and the project has succeeded in attracting two leading researchers to the University of Aarhus – the British couple Uta and Chris Frith.

“Both together and individually, they’ve extended the boundaries of our understanding of the interaction between communication, consciousness and biology. You can’t do better than having them as visiting professors for a prolonged project,” says Andreas Roepstorff.

He is an associate professor at the Department of Anthropology and Ethnography as well as at CFIN – the Centre of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience. This health sciences centre brings together many interdisciplinary research projects extending throughout the faculties at the university, in collaboration with the Aarhus University Hospital and the Royal Academy of Music.

The interdisciplinary research has created tremendous drive, and the university’s strength – knowledge of special areas – now focuses on collaboration in order to utilise each other’s competences. This benefits both researchers and students.

CFIN is an interdisciplinary research centre that is part of the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the University of Aarhus and located in connection with the Aarhus Hospital. The researchers at CFIN have a wide range of different scientific backgrounds, including physics, computer science, statistics, biology, medicine, psychology, semiotics, linguistics, philosophy, music and anthropology.
Protein research provides **new knowledge** – and better students

Protein research in Aarhus has previously paid off with a Nobel Prize, and the University of Aarhus still experiences considerable success in attracting interesting new protein research projects and centres.

One should have paid more attention in chemistry and biology lessons to understand the large protein model in the office, even though it probably only takes 5 minutes for all of the many PhD students and postdoctoral scholars – who diligently peer into large, white illuminated microscopes in the laboratory – to explain it easily and clearly.

And even though the equipment at the PUMPKIN protein centre more than anything else resembles something that wormed its way out of the grey matter of a science fiction writer, Poul Nissen – Professor in Molecular Biology – emphasises that it is really the old virtues associated with research that place the University of Aarhus in such a prominent position on the basic protein research map of Denmark.

“When you want to find new knowledge, there are two directions you can take. You can either start off with techniques and machines and see whether you can fine-tune them to deliver even better results, or you can also begin with the physiological or biological issues that you want to know more about, and make sure you find the best way to answer these questions. The latter method is the classical scientific one, and that’s the one we prefer to follow in Aarhus. It’s clearly our strength,” explains Professor Nissen.

**Aarhus in front**
All in all, the University of Aarhus has five protein centres, each with its own research priority area, financed by both public and private funds.

According to Professor Nissen, it is something as simple – but also important – as a good campus environment that helps keep Aarhus at the forefront.

“Our buildings are located close together, but we also have a scientific closeness and tradition for so-called interdisciplinary collaboration – in other words projects that cross the boundaries of departments and faculties. Obviously, when you can draw on different scientific perspectives in your day-to-day work, this provides stronger research, but when you also know each other and run into each other all the time, you feel a much greater degree of obligation as regards the projects you’re working together on,” he explains.

Professor Nissen is the centre director of PUMPKIN, which is financed by the Danish National Research Foundation with a grant of DKK 51.4 million spread over the next five years. Since the opening in April, he and his working partners – along with what will eventually be an international research environment with about 12–15 postdoctoral scholars and visiting researchers, as well as 15–20 PhD students – have conducted studies in the centre’s laboratories of cell membrane proteins and their significance for transport across the cell membrane.

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**18 floors of books and newspapers**

The State and University Library was established in 1902 as a general research library. In 1963, it moved into new buildings at the University of Aarhus.
The PUMPKIN basic research centre (membrane pumps in cells and disease) consists of research groups from five different university units: the Department of Molecular Biology, the Department of Biophysics, the Department of Physiology and the Bioinformatics Research Centre at the University of Aarhus, and the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Copenhagen.

The University of Aarhus has a further four protein research centres: MIND, inSPIN, mRNP and CARP.

The distinctive 43-metre-high tower has no windows and contains 18 floors of books, including everything published in Denmark in the last century. In addition to books, there are journals, weekly magazines, newspapers, local papers, pamphlets, etc. Just like the Royal Library in Copenhagen, the State and University Library in Aarhus is governed by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act. In 1963, the library lent out 109,483 units. Today, this figure exceeds a million.

Research at PUMPKIN will be incorporated into teaching and training students and postdoctoral scholars.

A quarter of all the EliteForsk Prizes went to the University of Aarhus

In January 2007, the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation awarded its EliteForsk Prize – valued at DKK 1 million – for the first time. These elite research prizes are awarded to outstanding young researchers under 45 years of age who are in an international class of their own and contribute in an exceptional way to strengthening Danish research. Two of the five prizes went to researchers at the University of Aarhus. They were Professor Søren Nielsen, DrMedSc, Director of the Water and Salt Research Centre, and Professor Klaus Mølmer, PhD, Director of the Centre for Quantum System Research.

On the same occasion, Helge Sander, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, awarded for the second time EliteForsk travelling scholarships valued at DKK 250,000 to promising, talented PhD students. These scholarships can be used to finance periods of study in internationally recognised elite research environments. The University of Aarhus received 9 of the 45 travelling scholarships.

Finally, the Danish Councils for Independent Research (DCIR) had nominated 24 recipients of a “Young Elite Researcher Prize”. This prize is awarded to very talented young researchers under 35 years of age. In order to be considered, students had to apply to the Scientific Research Councils for ordinary autumn distribution in 2006. In addition to the ordinary grant, prizewinners received an extra DKK 200,000 for research purposes. The University of Aarhus received 7 of the 24 Young Elite Researcher Prizes.

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Mr Nano himself

The iNANO centre really places the University of Aarhus in the international premier league.

The prefix “nano” refers to something that is incredibly small, somewhere between an atom and a molecule. iNANO has three important functions: teaching, research and innovation. The “i” in iNANO stands for interdisciplinary. This is an important aspect, and iNANO (Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Centre) is a meeting place for students and researchers with backgrounds in the science subjects physics, chemistry, molecular biology and biology – a distinctly interdisciplinary environment.

Nanotechnology is an underlying factor in such different products as targeted medicine, articles of clothing, sports equipment and surface treatment.

Mr Nano himself is Professor Flemming Besenbacher, the centre’s director. In 2007, the Danish journal Ingeniøren (The Engineer) acclaimed him the most influential researcher in Denmark. He achieves his results by being extremely busy, travelling all over the world and making sure that his door is always open – for students as well.

“We make a difference because we’ve established interdisciplinary collaboration – including the doctors. This teamwork provides results now, and I feel that it’s Danish study and research culture at its best because everyone can join in,” he points out.

Nanotechnology is a major focus area at the University of Aarhus, which is currently building completely new iNANO facilities. Extending over 8,500 square metres, the new building is due to open in 2008.

Nano comes from the Greek word nanos, which means dwarf, and nano thus refers to something small. In modern language, nano means $10^{-9}$, so a nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre. This is approximately 100,000 times smaller than the thickness of a hair, or a few times the diameter of an atom.

CREATES – the Centre for Research in Econometric Analysis of Time Series – has enabled the School of Economics and Management to bring together in Aarhus some of the world’s leading researchers in time series analyses and financial econometrics. CREATES has been granted approximately DKK 37 million (almost EUR 5 million) in funds from the Danish National Research Foundation, and is currently the only basic research centre in Denmark in this social science field. Among the international working partners and associated researchers are Nobel Prize winners Robert F. Engle and Clive W. Granger, the latter of whom is also an honorary doctor at the University of Aarhus.
In 2006, the Danish National Research Foundation extended its financial support for the Centre for Black Sea Studies by a further three years until 31 January 2010. Founded in 2002 at the Faculty of Humanities, this is one of the most outstanding and distinctive interdisciplinary centres in Denmark. The projects undertaken at this research centre include archaeological studies in the Black Sea region, which is part of the ancient Greco-Roman world.

In collaboration with mainly Russian, Ukrainian and Dutch partners, researchers at the centre carry out a number of different projects in this region, all of which are jointly anchored in the cultural meeting situation in an area that is – and always has been – of great significance both geostrategically and geopolitically. The large areas that encircle the Black Sea make up precisely the meeting place between Europe and Asia, where urban and nomad cultures meet.

“Since the fall of the Wall, the Black Sea region has provided us with exceptional opportunities for rounding off our knowledge and understanding of the ancient cultures of Antiquity, which we were otherwise most familiar with from the Mediterranean. International collaboration, an interdisciplinary approach and teamwork are the prerequisites that make it possible to harvest knowledge and recognition that really give us a boost,” says Pia Guldager Bilde, Director of the Centre for Black Sea Studies.

“As an unavoidable part of European culture, Antiquity is still current, and it’s therefore necessary to continue asking new questions of both the well-known and the new source material,” states Ms Bilde. This requires ongoing research efforts – even at a basic research level. A fundamental question behind most of the centre’s research activities is how the Greeks adapted to the Black Sea region, where completely other cultures and forms of organisation were a daily challenge to the Greek way of thinking and living. This is an enormously relevant issue to work with – especially in a region that is gaining more and more importance as a trading and working partner for Denmark, and which, to a great extent, will become an integrated part of the European Union within the foreseeable future. If we can become wiser about the past, we can possibly also contribute to setting the agenda for the future.
The world of research makes an impact

Globalisation in transit

It is loved for its great potential, open outlook and financial gains. It is feared by those who predict that the fatherland will become Mother Earth, and that the global citizen of the world means the downfall of the nation state. Globalisation is subject to both hatred and admiration. The fact is, however, that we all live in a globalised world.

In a book recently published by the Faculty of Humanities, ten researchers show that globalisation is more than trade, economy and technological breakthroughs that bring the world’s population closer together. The book Globalisation – past – present – future consists of ten abundantly illustrated interviews with researchers in globalisation, the university’s research priority area, which is a collaboration between the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities.

The style is neither academic nor heavy, but easily accessible because the researchers’ results must reach beyond the yellow walls of the university. For this reason, the book is also complimentary and will be available in the public sphere.

A print run of 20,000 free copies has been distributed to libraries, waiting rooms and airports.

New findings about the protective effects of lactic acid on muscle

In an article published in the British periodical The Journal of Physiology, a group of researchers from the University of Aarhus presents results that show that lactic acid can have a protective effect on the function of muscles.

The research group studied how the combined effects of lactic acid and adrenaline influence the signals that trigger muscular contraction. By using muscles from rats, they showed that the combination of high concentrations of adrenaline and lactic acid, the equivalent of what is observed during strenuous labour, provides the system of signals with particularly good protection from the fatigue that arises when muscles lose potassium ions during exercise.

These results are important because critics of the latest theories about the role played by lactic acid in connection with muscle fatigue have claimed that the effect of adrenaline would stop the protective effect of lactic acid.

A media release published by the journal establishes that the article from Aarhus, combined with a number of articles from research groups in Scandinavia, the UK, the USA and Canada, are on the way to radically changing our understanding of lactic acid from being an evil that should be avoided to being a chemical substance with a range of positive biological functions.
Centre with a focus on HRM

The Centre for Corporate Performance (CCP) under the Department of Economics at the Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus, carries out research into the interaction between human resource management (HRM) and corporate performance. Some of CCP’s research projects start with the individual company’s specific needs, which form the basis for setting up collaboration with a number of major Danish companies, all of which contribute financially to research at the centre. Danske Bank A/S, Novo Nordisk A/S and TDC A/S have entered into partnership agreements with CCP. Research collaboration frequently takes place by getting the company in question and CCP to define an area of collaboration, after which the company provides information (such as data pertaining to wages and salaries or absence due to sickness), which is jointly analysed by CCP’s researchers and the company. CCP has built up extensive, unique databases covering Danish companies and their employees, because the centre is one of the few places in the world where good data is available for studying the correlation between companies and their employees. In addition to conducting research based on the dataset provided by these companies, CCP’s researchers are able to carry out analyses by hooking up the corporate datasets to register data.

“Hooking up gives us an opportunity for completely new, quite different research projects that are also of interest to the companies. Since CCP started in 2002, the attractive research environment and access to unique data have attracted researchers from all over the world, so we have a very large national and international network,” says Professor Niels Westergård-Nielsen, Director of CCP.

Every period has its Mohammed crisis

At the beginning of 2006, the Muslim world launched a massive strike against Danish products in response to newspaper drawings depicting the prophet Mohammed in various situations. The Mohammed crisis is probably regarded by many as a unique event. However, research in theology and the study of religion shows that it has parallels. One project, for instance, is about how Jews and Christians in the first centuries following the introduction of our calendar defended themselves against accusations and attacks from other groups in contemporary Roman society. Jews and Christians made up a minority that did not follow normal religious practices and customs, and this made them suspicious in the eyes of others. This was not made better by the fact that Jews, and especially Christians, apparently clung to their views steadfastly, even though attempts were made to “bring them to their senses”.

Projects with perspective

The analogy with the present discussions is striking. Should the Scriptures only be significant for the individual or can they claim a more general influence on politics and the social establishment? Is atheism a better foundation for society than religion? Can religious norms and arguments once more be legitimate in public in the democratic constitutional states? And is the concept “the Islamic state” compatible with democracy and freedom of speech? Questions such as these are dealt with at the Faculty of Theology and the results are constantly presented in articles and books and at conferences.
The world of research makes an impact

Flexible heart on screen

It all began when Thomas Sangild Sørensen was a student programmer and has, for the time being, resulted in a ground-breaking innovation in demand by international heart surgeons.

One of the many options open to students and researchers at the University of Aarhus regarding interdisciplinary work and coming up with inventions is at CAVI – the Centre for Advanced Visualisation and Interaction.

“This will be of particular benefit to children with very complicated heart defects,” he explains. In 1999, he was studying at the Department of Computer Science when two surgeons came up with the idea. MRI scannings had already made it possible to visually inspect the inner organs, and with the data available, it was possible to go one step further and feed a high-capacity computer with information to develop 3D visualisation.

The three dimensions mean that congenital heart defects are reflected on the screen, and can be turned and rotated while anyone with a joystick can direct a scalpel and forceps right into the chambers of the heart. The tissue on the screen image is flexible so that wherever a wrong incision could cause damage is clearly evident.

“It’s better for a surgeon to make a mistake on a computer than on a patient. Especially when it’s a matter of such a vital organ as the heart,” says Assistant Professor Sørensen, who completed his MSc in computer science in 2000 and his PhD in medicine three years later. This provided him with insight into the medical side as well – although he has no intention of wielding a scalpel himself.

First aid for climate changes

There will be an enormous demand for water in hot countries in future if the climate changes turn out the way most climate experts predict. However, it appears that some of the unfortunate effects of global warming can be mitigated. At least, this is the opinion of Ali Shahnazari, whose PhD research is about how water can be saved in the tropical and subtropical regions.

Water resources in the areas concerned will come under enormous pressure as a result of reduced rainfall and increasing temperatures.

“In many of the countries in the area, agriculture uses 70–80 per cent of the water resources. When agriculture also provides work for more than half of these countries’ populations, climate changes are a ticking bomb that threatens the national economy. Saving just 10–20 per cent of the agricultural water consumption frees up major resources for drinking water and other purposes,” points out Ali Shahnazari, an Iranian agronomist and PhD student at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Aarhus.

The prevalent opinion has so far been that reduced artificial irrigation means reduced yield, because water requirements are mainly determined by climate. Ali Shahnazari’s experiments show that 20 per cent of the volume of water can actually be saved, even in crops sensitive to drought such as potatoes – the fourth most important crop in the world.

The method consists of watering the potatoes alternately on one side and then the other with a lower volume of water overall. Each individual root tip on the plants acts as a sensor that continuously measures how much water there is in the ground. If there are dry areas, the root triggers an alarm and sends a hormonal signal to the top of the plant to reduce the evaporation of water.

Ali Shahnazari was the first person in the world to demonstrate that the new method of watering includes an unexpected spin-off: the marketable yield of consumable potatoes is increased by up to 15 per cent.

At the testing fields in Foulum, Ali Shahbazari shows that potatoes do not need as much water if they are alternately watered on one side and then the other.
NERI joins in European environmental collaboration

In May 2007, seven of the largest environmental research centres in Europe decided to combine their expertise and strengths to provide new knowledge about preventive and adaptive measures regarding the expected climate changes. With a staff of 4,700 and an annual budget of DKK 2.7 billion, the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER) can contribute significantly to integrated solutions that are compatible as regards sustainable development. PEER was founded in 2001 with the aim of providing the EU with research-based consultancy services regarding the environment and questions about nature. Representing Denmark is the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) at the University of Aarhus.

PEER proposes a joint climate initiative that will analyse and explore new measures for prevention and adaptation. The PEER partners will therefore invite their regional, national and international working partners to take part in the initiative.

NERI works with climate-related research in a wide range of science and social science fields. This research covers the impact of climate changes on nature, biodiversity and ecological systems, both in Denmark and the vulnerable Arctic area. It includes the emission of climate gases into the atmosphere and ways of cutting such emission, including financial options. NERI works with the consequences for the environment, economy and health of different measures used in climate control, and integrates the results into models and scenarios.

Researchers go behind the headlines

Single-case politics, spin and competition between political parties to win the political agenda are some of the main elements in a research project led by Professor Christoffer Green-Pedersen from the Department of Political Science at the University of Aarhus. The project entitled Danish Politics: Class Politics to Media Politics discloses the interaction between parties, voters and the media, and investigates what controls the political decision-making process in Denmark. There is a widespread perception that the media have a relatively significant impact on the political decision-making process, but in this project, the researchers at the Department of Political Science question the influence of the media on the political agenda in Denmark. If the major parties keep out of a debate, it is difficult for the media to keep it going, and this implies that it remains largely the politicians within the parties who set the agenda for decision-making processes and forming attitudes. The major research project Power and Democracy in Denmark also indicated that the political leaders play a significant role as regards political agendas. With this project, Professor Green-Pedersen and his research colleagues Professor Lise Togeby and Assistant Professor Rune Stubager thus address some of the questions raised in continuation of the Power and Democracy in Denmark project.

Danish Clearinghouse for Educational Research

The 2004 OECD report on Danish educational research referred to the problem that there is not sufficient linkage between research and development environments and the places that will make use of the knowledge produced there. The Danish Clearinghouse for Educational Research is part of the solution to this problem. A main task faced by Clearinghouse is communicating reliable, qualified knowledge about upbringing, teaching and education. This is knowledge that can be used in educational practice and policy design. Clearinghouse achieves this aim by performing three functions: gathering and analysing information and distributing knowledge that is based on the best available evidence.
Ground-breaking cultural history

With a ground-breaking cultural history study, Thomas Lyngby revealed in his dissertation the relationships between the layout of upper class homes and the organisation of the residents’ consciousness, and how these dimensions changed from 1570 to 1870. The 36-year-old historian shed new light not only on the stylistic and material design of the home, but also on the residents’ sensory, emotional and conscious lives during the period.

Unusual publication

The 31-year-old molecular biologist Christian Brix Folsted Andersen was possibly the first person ever to publish his research results within the course of two days in both Nature and Science – the two most renowned and prestigious scholarly journals in the field of science – both times based on his PhD project on crystal structures. Nature published his structural studies of the protein elongation factor.

Innovative model

Pia Moltke Jensen’s PhD dissertation on the law of property will in all probability achieve a central position in legal literature. Her dissertation actually contributes with an innovative model for deduction, which can also be used in practical legal life. The 30-year-old law graduate studied the law of property connexity concept, which covers the claims of several parties arising from the same legal relations. The starting point for her research is a long series of judgements and rulings, as this area is not regulated by law.

Jesus and Dionysos

In his dissertation on the scene of recognition in the Gospel according to St John, 34-year-old Kasper Bro Larsen demonstrates how it is made up of typical scenes of recognition or acknowledgement. Just like Odysseus (Ulysses) in The Odyssey or the god Dionysos in The Bacchae, Jesus arrives among his own as a stranger in disguise and challenges the characters in the tale to recognise him as his true identity behind the mask.

Ageing at the genetic level

Physician Kasper Kyng carried out research into the reasons for ageing. Knowledge about this is necessary to be better able to prevent coronary heart disease, cancer, diabetes, osteoarthritis and other diseases that often occur with age. This is why 31-year-old Kasper Kyng studied ageing changes at the genetic level in his project, and he found several hundred new genes that had not previously been associated with ageing. His results can be used to test how new types of medicine and changes to the diet or lifestyle can influence the ageing process.

High PhD ambitions at the University of Aarhus

The University of Aarhus has high ambitions in the PhD area – very high indeed. There are currently approximately 1,000 students enrolled in PhD degrees at the university, and during the course of a few years, this figure is expected to rise to 2,000 PhD students. The university has launched a significant initiative to recruit and nurture the body of students with special talents, and during the course of 2007, 150 extremely talented young students can expect to be granted one of the special PhD scholarships announced at the University of Aarhus. The scholarships are funded by the University of Aarhus Research Foundation (AUFF). The scholarships of one or two years’ duration are available in open competition to students from universities in Denmark and abroad.

Shower of prizes for young researchers

Five promising researchers were rewarded with DKK 50,000 each when the University of Aarhus Research Foundation (AUFF) awarded PhD prizes based on the dissertations the prizewinners had defended in 2006. This was the fifth time the prizes were awarded since their introduction in 2003.
**Merger boosts research efforts**

There is plenty of busy activity in the corridors of the research units at the Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus. The merger with the University of Aarhus means an extra DKK 20 million (approximately EUR 2.7 million) for research activities in 2007. Initially, this involves appointing 20 young researchers and a considerable number of foreign visiting professors. In the course of the next few years, 50–60 new researchers will be appointed. This growth supports the school’s strategy from 2005, the first stage of which includes strengthening research by setting up the largest, strongest research areas as research centres. Eight research centres currently form the hub for particularly strong research environments.

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Research units at the Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus
Centre for Corporate Performance (CCP)
Centre for International Business Law (CIBL)
Centre for Research in Integration, Education, Qualifications and Marginalisation (CIM)
Centre for Organisational Renewal and Evolution (CORE)
Centre for Lexicography (CentLex)
Centre for Corporate Communication (ASBccc)
Centre for Research on Customer Relations in the Food Sector (MAPP)
Centre for Operations Research Applications in Logistics (CORAL)

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**Between company and university**

Private sector companies in Denmark can get support to employ a student enrolled in a vocational PhD programme. Students complete their research projects in collaboration with the company and the university.

**My mobile phone doesn’t understand me**

Unless you are the advanced technology handyman of the family, you have no doubt experienced pulling your hair out trying to get a new mobile phone or MP3 player to work. Rune Nørager carries out research into how advanced technological and software-based products become more intuitive and logical to operate by taking into account the basic way people perceive the world. He has completed his MA in psychology and is enrolled in a vocational PhD programme at the Department of Psychology, where he is carrying out his research in collaboration with Bang & Olufsen. IT hardware is frequently unintelligible for the human brain because the technology is on a collision course with the basic way in which we perceive the world. We are born with a basis for understanding that was shaped and developed via evolution. This core knowledge, which builds on such things as the physical world’s limitations, makes it possible for us to rapidly and effectively start to find our way in the world. Modern technology can be difficult to understand if its configuration runs into our ancient basis for understanding the world. However, we are not the ones who are too stupid to work out the technology. It is the products that do not take our common perception of the world into consideration.

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**FIND A RESEARCHER**

“Find a researcher” is a service available on the university’s website, and a crucial objective of this project is to enable people who are unfamiliar with the university’s organisation to find the researchers. At the core is a list of approximately 1900 keywords that describe all the research areas. The list was prepared by the university in collaboration with journalists, and the keywords are formulated so that people who are not familiar with the specialist knowledge in the research areas concerned can nevertheless understand them.

STUDIES
Sampling Denmark’s best university city

Every year at the end of February or beginning of March, 25 educational institutions in Aarhus open their doors to potential students to give them an opportunity to experience study conditions at close hand. The event is called u-days and the idea began in 2005, when the higher education institutions in Aarhus combined to draw attention to Aarhus as the best university city in Denmark.

On u-days, visitors can meet students and student counsellors, attend classes, take part in an orientation meeting, join in a hands-on workshop, go to a café or take a guided tour.
# Bachelor's Degree Programmes

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<td>Chinese studies</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Scandinavian languages and literature (Danish)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical archaeology</td>
<td>Japanese studies</td>
<td>Slavic languages</td>
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<td>Classical languages</td>
<td>Journalism and media within globalisation</td>
<td>South Asian studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>Language and European studies</td>
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<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital design (new programme)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dramaturgy</td>
<td>Marketing and management communication</td>
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# Master's Degree Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aesthetics and culture</th>
<th>Hungarian</th>
<th>Medical chemistry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology and ethnography</td>
<td>Information studies</td>
<td>Medieval and Renaissance archaeology</td>
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<td>Art history</td>
<td>International studies</td>
<td>Molecular biology</td>
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<td>IT and organisations</td>
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<td>Mundus journalism</td>
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<td>Journalism (cand. publ.)</td>
<td>Music studies</td>
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<td>Nanoscience</td>
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<td>Business communication</td>
<td>Languages (cand. ling.merc.)</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>Optics and electronics</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
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<td>Political science</td>
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<td>Cognitive semiotics</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in didactics, Danish</td>
<td>Prehistoric archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative literature</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in didactics, material culture</td>
<td>Process technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in didactics, mathematics</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dramaturgy</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in didactics, music education</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in educational anthropology</td>
<td>Scandinavian languages and literature (Danish)</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in educational philosophy</td>
<td>Serbo-Croat</td>
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<td>European studies</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in educational psychology</td>
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<td>Experience economy</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in educational sociology</td>
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<td>French</td>
<td>Master's degree programme in general pedagogics</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>MSc (cand. merc.) (ten lines)</td>
<td>Study of religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geophysics</td>
<td>MSc (Accounting and auditing) (cand. merc. aud.)</td>
<td>Technical geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>MSc (FT) (cand.merc. [IT])</td>
<td>Technical IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>MSc (Law) (cand.merc. [jur.])</td>
<td>Technical physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health science</td>
<td>Material physics/chemistry</td>
<td>Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>History of ideas</td>
<td>Mathematics–economics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>History of science</td>
<td>Media studies</td>
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</table>
Nine new degree programmes

The University of Aarhus established nine new degree programmes in 2007 – three Bachelor’s and six Master’s degree programmes. The three Bachelor’s degree programmes are IT, molecular medicine and digital design, and the six new Master’s degree programmes are journalism (cand.public.), experience economy, international economic consulting (cand.merc.), MSc with specialisation in innovation management (cand.oecom.), graduate engineer in building, and molecular nutrition and food technology.

Applications for the new Bachelor’s degrees were completely overwhelming during the enrolment session in 2007. These amounted to no fewer than 227 applications to the Faculty of Science for the degree in molecular medicine and 69 for the completely new IT programme, while 144 applied for enrolment in digital design at the Faculty of Humanities. IT was the first priority for 47 of the applications, while 78 listed molecular medicine and 69 listed digital design as their first priority. The newly created degree programmes are thus now firmly established.

In addition to the degree programmes it has already established, the University of Aarhus has applied for approval of the following degree programmes when studies begin on 1 September 2008:

- Graduate engineer degree in mechanics
- Master’s degree in physical education and sport
- MSc (cand.techn.merc.)
- Bachelor’s degree in biological production
- Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in agricultural production
- Master’s degree in agriculture, nature and the environment
- Master’s degree in biosystems engineering (in collaboration with the Faculty of Science, Vitus Bering Denmark and the Engineering College of Aarhus)
- Master’s degree in IT-didactic design
- Master’s degree in the evaluation of learning, teaching and education
- Bachelor’s degree in international cultural studies and languages
- Master’s degree in management
- Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in public health science
- Joint Nordic Master’s degree: Master in The Religious Roots of Europe
- Teacher’s training degree
Projektzone.dk creates value for companies and students

The meeting place for students and companies interested in collaborating on projects and periods of practical training is www.projektzone.dk. With no costs involved, companies can test highly qualified potential employees with new knowledge for development projects, such as market analysis or optimising web sites. In return, students have a chance to try out their knowledge in practice, resolve future employment aims and establish a network with the companies.

More than 1700 students and 700 companies have now set up a profile at www.projektzone.dk, and the different web pages have been visited more than 1.5 million times since the zone was launched in September 2004. The site consistently has more than 100 current ads.

Intake reaches all-time high

Pirates bring their own sea shanties and ghetto blasters, ladybirds turn up with feelers made of strips of paper, and a group of students are dressed in seaweed and marine animals. When asked what they are supposed to be, they cry out in voices that are already hoarse: “We are crazy Thea” – a Danish pun referring to the Galathea Expedition. The new students have captured the university. In September 2007, approximately 6,000 students embarked on new studies, a new life. This is the largest number of newly enrolled students ever recorded at the University of Aarhus. The university has grown significantly in recent years and this provides the students with even greater flexibility when putting their degree programme together.

The Faculty of Science welcomed 770 new students in the Main Hall of the university.
Addicted to the experience

The Student House in Aarhus is one of the most popular meeting places for young people – especially students. They come to the Student House for all sorts of things, ranging from interesting lectures and educational workshops to hilarious stand-up events and concerts with excellent bands. Meeting other people of the same age in a building with numerous exciting, fun and enjoyable arrangements is very important for the many students in Aarhus. Along with the many visitors, more than 100 volunteers get the building to buzz with life, and make coming there a great experience – one that you can easily get addicted to.

New faculty – new degree programmes

Work is in full swing at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) preparing for the first degree programmes, where the key phrase is “project-oriented teaching”.

The faculty opens for its first students in 2008, and has set its sights on one single, joint Bachelor’s degree programme that covers a wide front.

At least three Master’s degree programmes will also be set up, with an opportunity for specialisation, including a line in food production via organic farming – a totally new initiative in a Danish context. Graduate engineers are expected to apply for another Master’s degree programme – biosystems engineering – and the degree programme in agriculture, nature and the environment aims at training graduates who can attend to the numerous tasks covered by the public sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICANTS AND NEW STUDENTS 2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPLICANTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>– AU-IBT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>ASB</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>ENROLLED STUDENTS 2006</th>
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<td><strong>BACHELOR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>GRADUATES 2006</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BACHELOR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DPU</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Ground-breaking education

Only a handful of Danes can call themselves “professor in university education”. Two of these are professors, prizewinners and women, and work at the university in Aarhus.

Hanne Leth Andersen is the director of the Centre for Educational Development, and she is a humanist. Berit Eika is the director of the Unit for Medical Education, and she is a doctor. A common factor for them both is that they work as professors, researchers and intermediaries for better teaching.

“What’s so special about university teaching is that it’s based on research. That’s the starting point for our work,” says Professor Andersen.

The strength of research-based teaching is not only that the teachers include the latest research – and communicate dynamic knowledge while it is still being formed, so to speak. It also lies in the fact that students learn to think in terms of research and to apply research methodologies.

The merger with the Danish School of Education means that research into university studies in education has been further strengthened at the University of Aarhus.

In 2007, Berit Eika was awarded the Codan/SEB Pension Education Prize valued at DKK 50,000 for “her pioneering work in health sciences education research” and the University of Aarhus Prize valued at DKK 75,000 for her “efforts in providing excellent, ground-breaking teaching at the University of Aarhus”, while Hanne Leth Andersen received the University of Aarhus Prize in 2006.

7,000 at a party in the University Park

On Friday 25 May 2007, students at the University of Aarhus held a fantastic party in the attractive University Park – the largest Friday bar event in Denmark. This was to celebrate the fact that students from the Aarhus School of Business, the Danish University of Education and the University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology in Herning, along with students from the “old” university, were now colleagues under the same umbrella following the major mergers that took place during the winter and spring.

“It’s important that we make sure the students also feel that they’re part of the great mergers the university has carried out during the last year,” said Rector Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen, who was pleased that the students’ own organisations had also got together. The party was organised by the Students’ Council and Guild (SRL), a combination of the Students’ Guild from the Aarhus School of Business and the Student Council at the University of Aarhus.
Astrid Kallesøe is a student with a passion for German and Germany. It means so much to her that, in 2006, she travelled around with a roadshow to boost the interest of young people in a subject that has attracted fewer and fewer students in recent years. Using the slogan “German is cool”, she and a group of fellow students visited upper secondary school pupils throughout Jutland to convince them that German is more than just a hard grind.

“The aim was to get the youngsters involved so that they could get over the typical notion that Germany is just a place to buy cheap sweets or drive through on a tedious highway,” explains Ms Kallesøe.

“It was fun. We held a workshop with jigsaw puzzles, an Internet quiz and listening exercises, and it worked,” says the 27-year-old Ms Kallesøe.

**Challenge on the Internet**

They sawed out the jigsaw puzzle themselves, and the object was to put the 16 German states in the right order, from the large Bavaria to the small Bremen. The Internet quiz challenged the youngsters to name the different constituent states: the Kaiserslautern football club is based in Rhineland-Palatinate, Europe’s most modern quay frontage is in Hamburg, while Berlin stands out for its Love Parades.

The students did so well that the German teachers at the upper secondary schools asked if they would publish games and exercises as part of their teaching material.

**Denmark’s largest trading partner**

The attempt by Astrid Kallesøe and her fellow students to arouse interest in German among upper secondary school pupils ties in with the general wave of interest that Germany has experienced in recent years. Germany – and Berlin in particular – has become the creative and cultural centre of Europe. Rammstein sang “We’re all living in America America”, and a German film received an Oscar in Hollywood for *Das Leben der Anderen* (The Life of Others), set in East Berlin.

“Even though it’s not a particularly wealthy city, Berlin has a creative energy you can’t find anywhere else,” says Ms Kallesøe, who is crazy about the city after spending six months of practical training there. Even poor artists can afford a studio there, and the city abounds with them – and with Danes who have made the most of the opportunity to buy a cheap flat. As the mayor of the city recently said: “Berlin is poor, but sexy.”

However, it is not only Berlin that is experiencing enormous popularity. Frankfurt am Main is a European financial centre, and Germany is undeniably Denmark’s largest trading partner. The University of Aarhus therefore recently established a “business line” in German.

“There is no great interest in studying German, even though Germany is Denmark’s largest trading partner. However, two German students – Astrid Kallesøe (left) and Birgit Fink – created interest in the subject with their roadshow (“German is cool”) and a workshop.
Recruitment battle changes home ground

Even for major companies with a good reputation, it has become a challenge to find skilled labour. This has caused several notable Danish companies to move recruitment out of their large head offices and into the Aarhus School of Business, where they can meet future employees on their own territory.

Hundreds of students walk through the entrance hall at the Aarhus School of Business every day. Most are on their way to classes, others have to meet their reading groups, and some are going to the school’s career centre for a chat with a potential future employer. Since April, in fact, students have had an opportunity once a week to meet a new Danish company at the ASB Career Centre’s corporate desk. The setting is relaxed and informal: four red armchairs and a table with coffee and tea. It is not a matter of actual job interviews, but simply a forum where students can get answers about everything from career opportunities at the individual company to a review of their CV.

The recruitment challenge that many firms have to relate to, both now and in the future, means that the companies are compelled to be more proactive in their approach to recruitment in order to attract the most competent manpower. Companies can no longer rely on newly trained academics coming to them. The recruitment battle has changed the home ground, and a number of companies have now chosen to move recruitment out of their own environment. Spending a day at ASB and thus becoming a natural part of the students’ study environment, serves – in addition to this ideal recruitment opportunity – a more long-term and strategic purpose.

“This kind of informal dialogue with the students enables us, as a company, to keep up to date with what expectations our future employees have regarding the jobs they’ll soon be performing – knowledge that can have crucial significance when the battle for workers intensifies,” says Line Bjelsdorf Frost, HR consultant at Arla Foods, who has paid a visit to the corporate desk at the career centre.
With its central location in the city, the University of Aarhus campus is a particularly integrated and prominent part of the Aarhus personality. More than 50,000 people – a sixth of the city’s population – are either students or employees at the university or another higher education institution, and this makes the city throb in a quite unique way, which is reflected in a host of cultural, social and sporting activities.

The university has an extremely long list of political and cultural associations that help influence the study environment. These range from debate clubs, lecture associations and Studenterkredsen – the circle of students who have held lecture meetings steeped in tradition since 1942 on subjects such as theology, aesthetics, philosophy and politics – to social committees, festive Friday bars and large mutual events in the University Park.

One of the most tenacious associations at the University of Aarhus is the Aarhus Students’ Film Society, which is rich in tradition. This society began right back in 1953 on the initiative of students who were interested in films, and it still provides many students with a popular break from their studies.

Another popular association is Aarhus University Sports, a sports club that is part of an umbrella organisation with 14 independent member clubs. Students with a hankering for exercise can actively participate in everything from football and weightlifting to archery and rowing.

The Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus, is most likely to be ready in spring 2008 with a Master’s degree programme that is new to Denmark. The two-year MSc programme (cand. techn.merc.) targets students with a Bachelor’s degree in technology in a broad sense, such as graduate engineers or Bachelors with a background in agriculture/food, science or health science, according to Torben Dahl, team leader at the school.

The first students will be graduate engineers and, just like students in the other subject groups, they will find that the business administration degree programme revolves around subjects that are related to their technological knowledge to a great extent.

“Equipped with a degree programme combination like this, they’ll be in a strong position compared with graduates with a conventional technological degree, who often need to take a supplementary course in business administration,” says Torben Dahl.
It’s pretty overwhelming. I get e-mails from people all over Europe, as well as countries like Argentina, Japan and Iran, where they’ve seen the film and want to hear more details. And I haven’t managed to market it yet,” says Assistant Professor Brabrand.

He has not earned anything on the English version of the film, however, which cost DKK 280 to make.

“It was considered a non-profit film right from the start, and I have no problems with that,” says Assistant Professor Brabrand, who was grabbed by the thinking involved in university studies in education after he had been on an assistant professor teaching course.

Claus Brabrand left the University of Aarhus in September 2007 and is now an associate professor at the IT University of Copenhagen.
Well-educated crown prince

One of the 508 graduates from the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1995 was Denmark’s Crown Prince Frederik, who passed his exam in political science and was thus entitled to the letters MSc (Political Science). He is the first member of the Danish royal family to complete studies of an entirely academic nature.

Denmark’s first Department of Political Science was established in 1958. With 1700 students, it is one of the largest in Europe, and declared number five in Europe and number 40 in the world by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The University of Aarhus will set up an institution for the students that resembles an ombudsman, and it will be independent of the University Board and the day-to-day management and can – just like the Parliamentary Ombudsman – investigate cases on its own initiative, point out inappropriate management and administration, as well as giving remands in specific cases, if necessary.

By taking this initiative, the university wants to focus on the students’ rights within the formal system that administers their degree programmes. This means, for example, that the new unit will be able to propose improvements to whatever extent is possible within the legislative framework. The unit will also be able to support the students with information about lines of complaint and other relevant authorities, but will naturally not stand in for already existing boards of appeal regarding matters such as marks or marking assessment. The University of Aarhus expects to be able to set up the first institution of this kind in Denmark before the end of 2007 and thus significantly raise the level of legal rights for the students.

Getting student life under their skin

The study environment, reading rhythm, social activities and even studying itself cannot be described in words, but have to be experienced – partly because the University of Aarhus provides so many different degree programmes, and partly because approximately 35,000 students and a staff of about 10,000 make their own personal impression on university life every day.

Every autumn, the university invites upper secondary school pupils to attend three days of practical training, where they can get student life under their skin. They observe teaching at the university, including lectures and both practical and theoretical classes. In some subjects, the upper secondary school pupils take part in a specially designed practical programme, while in others, they attend lectures on a par with the “ordinary” students.

The subjects, lectures and teaching styles are typical of the education provided at the university, but the level of teaching is usually modified so the pupils can “keep up with it”.

More legal rights for students

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INTERNATIONALISATION
During the course of 2007 and 2008, 150 extremely talented young students can expect to be granted one of the special PhD scholarships announced at the University of Aarhus. The university is thereby launching a significant initiative to recruit and nurture the body of students with special talents.

These scholarships will be used to encourage some of the most brilliant students to enrol in a PhD degree programme. The scholarships are granted to students who have completed four years of relevant studies, and can therefore begin the first part of a four-year PhD degree programme. Having satisfactorily completed the first two years of this, and thereby completing a Master’s degree, students continue with the second part, which is also two years and is financed by an ordinary PhD scholarship.

Master’s graduates awarded a three-year PhD fellowship are enrolled as PhD students at one of the graduate schools at the University of Aarhus. At the Faculty of Health Sciences, a scholarship is valid for one year of full-time research, at the same time as the student is enrolled in the faculty’s Master’s degree programme.

The scholarships are funded by the University of Aarhus Research Foundation (AUFF). The scholarships of one or two years’ duration are available in open competition to students from universities in Denmark and abroad. The scholarships are announced and awarded by the University of Aarhus in accordance with a well-defined procedure.
Living in style at the university

Flats and rooms for foreign staff and guests

Guest accommodation in the Nobel Park
Forskningsfondens Ejendomsselskab A/S (FEAS) has built a total of 28 guest residences in the Nobel Park, and these are let to guest researchers from abroad working for more than a month at the University of Aarhus.

There are 1-room to 4-room flats that are let fully furnished and well supplied with bedclothes, kitchen utensils, etc. There is also access to the university's phone and IT networks.

Shared facilities include a roof terrace, laundry, storage room, activity room and parking for bicycles and cars. Cots can be borrowed for infants and there are mattresses available to put on the floor for older children. Tripp Trapp chairs can also be borrowed.

The University of Aarhus Guesthouse
The University of Aarhus Guesthouse provides 10 comfortable guest rooms for visitors or people associated with the university. There is a spacious sitting room with a hi-fi system and TV linked to international channels, a shared eat-in kitchen and a small kitchen on each floor for making tea and coffee.

Students as mentors
The University of Aarhus receives approximately 800 foreign exchange students every year. An important part of receiving these students is carried out by mentors. These are students from the same department at the University of Aarhus attended by the foreign student.

Arriving at the University of Aarhus can be a bewildering experience for a foreign student, who regards a mentor as an essential guide when it comes to making the transition to a new study environment as smooth as possible. The mentor also ensures that the foreign student is able to solve all the practical and administrative tasks associated with the new study situation.
The legend and the diplomat

The university was co-organiser of an arrangement with Bill Clinton and Kofi Annan

It was a major event – almost ceremonious – when the two great statesmen Kofi Annan and Bill Clinton were guests in Aarhus in 2007 to address an audience of more than 3,000 in the NTGi Arena. As one of the more seasoned guests expressed it, Bill Clinton once more held a legendary speech – this time focused on worldwide environmental problems and globalisation.

As a master of rhetoric, he demonstrated a fantastic overview of the situation and in-depth familiarity. He had no problems diving into Danish environmental policy and aid to developing countries, which he praised very highly. This is because Clinton has now visited Denmark on about 9 occasions – at least so many times that the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh has “threatened” him with a tax bill for his lectures in Denmark.

“I’d be happy to, but only on condition that the money goes to developing wind energy,” said Clinton with a smile.

Kofi Annan’s speech was more of an account of his great efforts to eliminate hunger, famine and wars in the world during his long diplomatic career in the UN – a career that he had put on standby at an early stage because he had been ordered to Copenhagen.

“Copenhagen is a lovely city, but not the ideal place for a young UN worker with a burning desire to make progress in the developing world,” said Annan. Shortly afterwards, however, he resumed his UN work in Egypt.

FOREIGN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty or School</th>
<th>Exchange Students</th>
<th>Foreign Students in Degree Programmes</th>
<th>Total Number of Foreign Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Faculty of Humanities</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>407</td>
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<td>The Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Aarhus School of Business</td>
<td>281</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Danish School of Education</td>
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<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Aarhus in all</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A possible vision of the university of the future

In May, 2007 Carsten Almann Levisen, MA, won first prize in an article competition arranged by the University of Aarhus in March to get suggestions from both staff and students regarding the direction the university should take after the mergers.

Worlds of exploration, passion and fellowship

By Carsten Almann Levisen

Extracts from the rector’s speech “Worlds of exploration, passion and fellowship” at the University of Aarhus centenary celebrations 2028

By Rector Vusumuzi Østergaard Hwa-Young

Some people shook their heads when the University of Aarhus changed direction at the beginning of the new millennium. In a period characterised by cultural isolation and individualism, the burgeoning values of a new generation – such as diversity and fellowship – often ran into a brick wall. However, the management remained faithful to its course regarding an open attitude to the world and a human approach, which turned the University of Aarhus into Denmark’s strongest brand since Hans Christian Andersen.

In 2012, the five large entertainment centres were opened. This began with the Cultural Experience Centre and the Language Experience Centre, where Danes from all walks of life flocked to the universities at weekends. These technologically innovative museums came to grips with the contemporary craving for exploration, knowledge and play. Entertainment centres featuring nature, religion and IT were subsequently opened. In a way that had never been experienced before, the universities became deeply embedded in society, and intakes consequently increased significantly in the following years.

Another remarkable decision was the Diversity Document, which established that the university would actively encourage pluralism at all levels. When any network of just four students came up with a new idea based on a point of view, an interest or mutual understanding, the university provided meeting rooms, public speaking platforms and modest financial allowances. The many new student networks were a major advantage for student democracy, completion rates and innovation. Numerous small networks, groups, clubs, lodges and associations saw the light of day in what subsequently came to be called “the network-democratic revival”.

The aversion experienced in the past to religious matters and the special status of the Danish National Evangelical Lutheran Church was effectively quashed when – amid massive protest – the temple, mosque and church were built, where groups of students and staff could meet for meditation, prayer and networking. The monks, imams and clergymen invited in by the network groups initiated debates in a constructive way about values and ethical issues that came to shape our sense of self-understanding.

All the conventional canteens were closed down and replaced by many small sushi bars, wok houses, bakeries and eateries that specialised in vegetarian food, halal shawarma, Norwegian fish dishes or Indian naan bread. These small gourmet units were placed in clusters that made selecting from specialties from all over the world a daily event.

In 2011, the university’s management took a decision that was both courageous and wise – to make the world’s natural heritage, cultural heritage and development the unifying project for the entire institution. This was global, future-oriented and carefully prepared.

Talent scouts from AU Global Teams®, who operated particularly in the developing countries in Africa and Asia, invited groups of young people to Aarhus to provide them with education and to teach them how to educate. Today, we can see how these young people have returned to South Sudan, Angola, Cambodia and Myanmar, where they are building up the education sectors that create progress, pride and a nursery for democracy. Contributing to this success, of course, was the far-sighted idea that all teachers at the university should spend one term every ten years in a developing country. In this way, teachers of medicine, economics and languages have helped to stabilise the world, and we are proud of our efforts. We deserved to be rewarded by winning this year’s Nobel Peace Prize – the first university in the world to do so.

The nature of the teaching gradually changed. Individual teachers were replaced by teams, and new video conferences were creatively used in the so-called global parallel classes. I can still remember how the Department of Political Science
– the first to do so – introduced joint teaching in collaboration with major American universities, and how the first global project between a team of anthropology students from Aarhus and Athens was given approval in 2019. This subsequently became a compulsory procedure in the academic regulations. Events followed each other in quick succession and the global parallel classes have added a dimension that we can now scarcely imagine being without.

As a result of internationalisation, we took the important step to assign greater priority to both Danish and English in the teaching. The Centre for Danish as an Educational Language and the Centre for Educational English gave us a tremendous boost. Many non-Danish students learned to speak Danish in such a rapid, targeted way that this has subsequently been the subject for a considerable number of scientific studies. Part of the secret was to use language coaches, mainly students trained in practical language acquisition, who periodically supervised newcomers very strictly in Danish until their confidence in using the language soared to new heights. The same learning principles were used to fundamentally strengthen the English proficiency of the Danish students and staff.

The University of Aarhus chose to focus on the world, people and fellowship. This became our major asset, our brand and our financial salvation. We became a cutting-edge university with strong values and visions that struck a seam with the new millennium generation. That is what we are reaping the benefits of today.

Carsten Almann Levisen wrote the article while still a student and was awarded first prize as a newly graduated Master of Arts in linguistics.

The University of Aarhus is a member of the Coimbra Group, an association of 37 prominent universities outside the European capitals. A number of the Coimbra Group’s member universities have combined forces in a student exchange network in which students can study at another university without paying tuition fees.

The following universities are members of the Coimbra network:

- Austria University of Graz*
- Belgium Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- Belgium Université Catholique de Louvain
- Czech Republic Charles University in Prague
- Denmark University of Aarhus*
- Estonia University of Tartu*
- Finland Åbo Akademi University*
- Finland University of Turku*
- France University of Lyon
- France University of Montpellier
- France University of Poitiers*
- Germany Friedrich Schiller University of Jena*
- Germany Georg-August University of Göttingen*
- Germany Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg*
- Germany University of Heidelberg*
- Greece Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Hungary Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest*
- Ireland National University of Ireland, Galway
- Ireland University of Dublin, Trinity College
- Italy University of Bologna*
- Italy University of Padua*
- Italy University of Pavia*
- Italy University of Siena*
- The Netherlands Leiden University
- The Netherlands University of Groningen*
- Norway University of Bergen
- Poland Jagiellonian University in Krakow*
- Portugal University of Coimbra*
- Romania Alexandru Ioan Cuza University
- Spain University of Barcelona*
- Spain University of Granada*
- Spain University of Salamanca*
- Switzerland University of Geneva*
- United Kingdom University of Bristol
- United Kingdom University of Cambridge
- United Kingdom University of Edinburgh
- United Kingdom University of Oxford
- Sweden Uppsala University

* These universities participate in the student exchange network.
International rankings or “hit lists” of the world’s universities have attracted considerable attention in recent years. The University of Aarhus has featured in two of the best-known of these – rankings listed by the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES), the UK, and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China. Both lists have placed the University of Aarhus higher in recent years, and it is now close to being among the top 100 universities in the world (THES ranking no. 126 and Shanghai ranking no. 105 in 2006). There are estimated to be 9,000 universities in the world. The THES ranking also includes lists of specific subject areas, and the University of Aarhus has achieved high placings in both science and biomedicine. In other subject-specific lists, political science and economics have been given high rankings in recent years.

Danish classes for foreigners

“Denmark Today” is an intensive Danish language and culture course for exchange students. Participants have 3 hours of Danish lessons in the morning and a combination of lectures, outings and social activities in the afternoon. These include lectures on Danish politics or visits to museums, newspapers and breweries, and a basic cooking course at the Student House. The course lasts three and a half weeks, is offered prior to the new terms starting in August and January, and is free for exchange students.

“Danish during term” is an ability-based Danish course for foreign members of staff and their companions, and two lessons are offered twice a week during term. The courses are planned in collaboration with the Aarhus Language Centre and are held in the university’s classrooms. Participation in the courses is free.
Foreigners meet in the International Club

A social and cultural meeting place for the university’s foreign staff and their companions

It is important – and often crucial – for the university’s guests and staff from abroad to have a place to meet, where there are no barriers regarding professional group, age and cultural background. The International Club (IC) is the university’s free offer to all foreigners, both staff and their companions.

During the months when the university is open, the IC holds weekly lectures that are interesting and educational. This also gives participants an opportunity to meet others in the same situation as well as meeting Danes.

Since the IC was set up in 1998, it has been a place where people meet and pass on useful tips about all sorts of things – about Aarhus and Denmark in general – but its most important function is to provide a place to build up a social network.

On average, approximately 30 researchers and their companions meet every Wednesday morning during term, either in the university’s Faculty Club facilities or elsewhere in the city.

The IC is donated and lends out bicycles, cots, pushchairs and musical instruments, etc.

The club can arrange language tuition with language partners who are either club members or university students.
COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
Katrinebjerg

IT City with a worldwide reputation

A considerable number of IT-related companies are brought together at the IT City Katrinebjerg. The INCUBA Science Park building houses more than 75 companies in a dynamic environment, where students and researchers also spend their days. International companies such as Google and VMware have set up development departments at Katrinebjerg, as has the Danish company Bang & Olufsen.

Collaboration takes place in an open-minded atmosphere at Katrinebjerg, whether it be between the business community and public sector research, large and small companies, or disciplines with different traditions, ranging from science to the social sciences and the humanities. The university teaches IT, computer science, and information and media studies at Katrinebjerg, and the Engineering College of Aarhus will very soon teach its IT degree programmes here. This provides a fertile environment for completely new knowledge and barrier-breaking business development.

An important go-between is the Alexandra Institute, a public research company that facilitates collaboration between private companies and the research that has given Aarhus an international reputation within areas such as object-oriented technology, hypermedia and IT-supported forms of work.

Innovation Lab is the IT City’s showroom for the technological opportunities of the future. Via its extensive network, this company is in touch with global IT research environments, which it uses to spot and promote future technologies.
INCUBA Science Park A/S
Science Park with three locations

Mergers strengthen Denmark’s first science park

The University of Aarhus was not alone in merger activities in 2007. Science Park Aarhus A/S and IT-Huset A/S also merged on 1 June 2007 and adopted the joint name INCUBA Science Park. The company will continue its activities at three locations – Katrinebjerg, Skejby and Gustav Wieds Vej. With its total area of 25,000 m², 112 knowledge-based companies and a staff of more than 750, INCUBA is the largest science park in West Denmark.

The aim of INCUBA Science Park is basically to encourage more people to take the plunge and set up new knowledge-based companies, and to help those who have taken this step to achieve commercial success via business development and networking.

INCUBA provides knowledge-based entrepreneurs with a unique, integrated science park offer via its three fully built up research parks linked to three of Denmark’s strongest research environments – the University Park in Aarhus (11,500 m²), the IT City Katrinebjerg (10,000 m²) and the Aarhus University Hospital in Skejby (3,500 m²).

Extension plans
Skejby: total of 6,200 m² by the end of 2008
Katrinebjerg: total of 12,500 m² by the end of 2009

INCUBA Science Park will have more than 30,000 m² in 2009, with room for more than 150 knowledge-based companies and up to 1,000 members of staff.

Risk capital for new companies
The aim of Østjysk Innovation A/S is to invest risk capital in new, innovative and primarily research-related businesses and to make knowledge, expertise and administrative services available to the companies in which it invests. The company offers innovative entrepreneurs the best possible conditions for development, and acts as a provider of information about technology on behalf of others, including portfolio companies, research institutions, private companies, etc.

Østjysk Innovation A/S was established in 1998 with founders that include the University of Aarhus Research Foundation, the Municipality of Aarhus, the County of Aarhus, Science Park Aarhus A/S and others. The company was approved the same year as a state innovation environment, and by virtue of state risk capital, it can invest in completely new, research-related companies.

Since it began and up to spring 2007, Østjysk Innovation has helped approximately 100 new companies to get started. More than half of these are based on ideas and research results from the University of Aarhus, the Aarhus University Hospital, the Engineering College of Aarhus and the Aarhus School of Business.
Research-based advice to the authorities

Strong consultancy profile at the new University of Aarhus

The University of Aarhus provides research-based consultancy services for national and international authorities and institutions. For many years, the university has provided advice regarding forensic medicine, but the consultancy services have been strongly reinforced by the merger. This applies particularly to the areas of the environment and agriculture, but the university now also has a strong profile in the field of education and is a national adviser. The university’s advice adds support to the knowledge-based foundation on which political/administrative processes are based. In the years ahead, the university will extend this research-based consultancy for the authorities and thus boost knowledge transfer to the community at large.

The environment
The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) advises the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the Danish regions and municipalities, the Mineral Resources Administration for Greenland and other public authorities, the EU, private organisations and companies. Plans including the Danish Water Environment Plan and accompanying monitoring programme were drawn up on the basis of advice from NERI. In matters regarding climate changes, nature management, air pollution, the environmental impact of natural resources activities in Greenland, environmentally dangerous substances, environmental-economic analyses, etc., the authorities base their decisions to a large degree on the research-based advice provided by NERI.

Agriculture
The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) advises the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and other public authorities on the basis of national and international knowledge acquired during many years of research and current forward-thinking research activities. DJF provides research-based consultancy services related to the environment and bioenergy, climatic and natural resources, organic farming, food quality, livestock production and plant production.

Teaching
The Danish School of Education (DPU) has an advisory function as regards the educational political system. When political questions are on the agenda regarding workplace learning, teacher education and the proficiency of Danish school pupils, DPU makes sure to contribute to a qualified debate by providing relevant research results. In other words, DPU relays pertinent knowledge in a form that can provide inspiration for a political debate and, put into practice, can benefit the community.

Forensic medicine
The Institute of Forensic Medicine aids the justice authorities with autopsies and appurtenant forensic chemical, forensic genetic and forensic dental investigations, etc. and personal examinations of victims of violence, rape, child abuse, torture and offenders, as well as independent forensic chemical investigations of narcotics and goods.
The Aarhus University Hospital involves collaboration between the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Aarhus and the following hospital units in Region Central Jutland and Region North Jutland:

**Aarhus Hospital**
- Aarhus Hospital, Noerrebrogade (formerly Aarhus Municipal Hospital)
- Aarhus Hospital, Tage-Hansens Gade (formerly Aarhus County Hospital)
- Aarhus Hospital, P.P. Oerums Gade (formerly Marselisborg Hospital)

**Skejby Hospital**
- Psychiatric Hospital in Risskov
- Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents

**Aalborg Hospital**
- Aalborg Psychiatric Hospital

The Aarhus University Hospital has three main functions: clinical work, which the region is responsible for; research, which the Institute of Clinical Medicine is responsible for; and education, where the Institute of Clinical Medicine is responsible for the medical degree programme and the region is responsible for the postgraduate medical degree programme.

This means, on a practical level, that the hospitals and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Aarhus work closely together to support each other's missions in clinical care, research, and education.
Selling knowledge and research to the business community

A new unit has been created at the University of Aarhus with the setting up of Aarhus University OutReach by the Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with the University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology in Herning (AU-IBT). Aarhus University OutReach offers collaborative agreements in both courses and research.

The course content revolves around ethics, business development, innovation, creativity, health and caring, IT and design. Denmark has a special strength in being able to carry out business-oriented research and education at an interdisciplinary level between the humanities, social sciences, technical sciences and the private business community from both a national and an international perspective.

OutReach can draw on more than 350 teachers and researchers from different fields of study at the University of Aarhus, and this provides an enormous, interdisciplinary strength. They make their key competences available for courses that are often developed in close collaboration with customers.

Institute of Clinical Medicine
At the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Institute of Clinical Medicine is responsible for research at the Aarhus University Hospital. The institute was established in 1972 and is currently the largest medical science institute in Denmark, with a turnover of approximately DKK 500 million (about EUR 67 million) per annum, 1,500 affiliated employees and a staff of 711 (full-time equivalent).

Most of the work carried out by the Institute of Clinical Medicine is at the Aarhus University Hospital, but a considerable number of regional hospitals are also affiliated, mainly in connection with the education and training of students, but also in a research-related network.

Research-based continuing and further education

The recently established Aarhus University OutReach develops and arranges research-based continuing and further education programmes for public and private sector companies in the following areas of expertise:

- Organisation and management
- Communication and culture
- Social and health care
- Pedagogics and learning
- Profession and practice research
- Innovation and creativity
- Personal development

Up to 2,000 pigs are operated on each year in Aarhus as part of the clinical experiments.
Collaboration with Stockholm University to save the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is about to succumb to pollution, and the University of Aarhus and Stockholm University will now do something about it. This is the first time in the world that attention on such a broad front is being focused on pollution – from the land, from the air and from the sea in the Baltic Nest Institute project.

The Baltic Nest Institute is organised with a department at the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) in Roskilde and another in Stockholm. The Danish department is initially assured of 7 members of staff, but NERI expects this to be extended to 10–12 people in the course of 1–2 years. There are also approximately 140 researchers associated with the project, with tasks such as developing new models. To make sure this research is conducted in a responsible way, plans include setting up two professorships at the University of Aarhus in ecology models and management models, respectively.

Finance has been secured with commitments from the University of Aarhus (DKK 12 million), the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research at the Technical University of Denmark and the Danish Meteorological Institute. In addition, NERI expects to be able to attract significant funds from Danish and EU research programmes and foundations.

There are numerous symptoms of the serious conditions in the Baltic Sea. These include frequent occurrences of poisonous blue-green algae, large areas with oxygen depletion, methane formation (marsh gas), fish that are inedible because of high levels of dioxin and other environmental poisons, fish stocks that threaten to collapse, and sick seal and bird populations. All this has become considerably worse in the last century. In addition, many of the Baltic Sea’s disorders will be worsened as a result of the expected climate changes.

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Get to know your food better

In April 2007, the University of Aarhus held an open house event called “Get to know your food better”. Guests had an opportunity to meet researchers from all the university’s main study areas, who provided mini lectures, exhibitions, food/chemistry shows, posters, taste samples, competitions and much more. Subjects ranged from the intelligent refrigerator to food and brand name goods, milk and beauty, the ABC of meals and ancient food. Guests could guess the price of a product and taste wine, enjoy samples of West Jutland cuisine, and see how salt is extracted on the Danish island of Laesoe.

This arrangement was part of the Festival of Research, an annual event organised by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation intended to arouse public interest and promote understanding of research methods, processes and results.

CAMPUS is the internal newspaper of the University of Aarhus. It targets students and staff, and is published every second week during term, approximately 20 times a year, with articles, debate material, news from the management and announcements.

The university’s alumni magazine is called AU-gustus, and it is distributed 4 times a year with news and information for Masters, Bachelors, staff and working partners. The name AU-gustus is a combination of AU for the University of Aarhus and the Latin word gustus, which means a taste sample.
Denmark’s Innovation Champion

“Dynamic” and “exemplary” were some of the words of praise when the University of Aarhus, Institute of Business and Technology in Herning (AU-IBT) was the first to win the title Denmark’s Innovation Champion in 2006

Herning has a tradition for entrepreneurs and a dynamic business community, so it is hardly a coincidence that the only BDE (Business Development Engineer) degree programme in Denmark is taught at the Birk Centerpark on the outskirts of the town.

About 100 students from all parts of Denmark use the Business Factory to turn their commonly held dream into reality by creating their own professional life. The Business Factory has been open for two years and receives twice as many applications as it can accept. Theory and practice go hand in hand, and the gap to the business community is bridged – with considerable local support.

Four innovative lads got to know each other during their studies – due to be completed in February 2008. However, they already run their own joint company called Illux ApS. Their product is photographic art and, in collaboration with 12 professional photographers, they currently have more than 300 motifs in stock as wall decorations for both private and public use. Customers can also order their own photographs in the format and frame of their choice, as well as artistic finishing.

“So far, it’s gone really well with sales and we’re hoping to turn the company into a career. The great thing about our education is that it’s down-to-earth and can be used for a specific purpose,” says Jimmy Rhiger.

The BDE programme can be taken as a 4½-year diploma degree or a 5-year Master’s degree.

At the Business Factory, students at AU-IBT can specialise in setting up their own business. They receive coaching and teaching in a considerable number of relevant areas.

PHOTO: TOM LAURSEN

CollaboRation anD knowleDge tRansfeR
Trailblazing pig embryos can help sick people

Scandinavia’s first genetically engineered, cloned pigs saw the light of day in Foulum

Denmark was the first country in Scandinavia to clone pigs created and born at the former Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences – now the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) at the University of Aarhus.

DJF and its working partners are now once again at the cutting edge of biotechnology, this time with cloned pigs that have been genetically modified – so-called transgenic pigs.

The pigs contain genes for Alzheimer’s disease and thereby contribute to research into human diseases. Researchers isolate the genetic material from pig cells and modify it so that it contains genetic sequences that are supposedly responsible for Alzheimer’s disease. The pigs are subsequently cloned – made into a kind of “carbon copy” – by using these cells, and the embryos are inserted in sows that act as surrogate mothers for the cutting-edge piglets.

Scandinavia’s first litter of cloned, transgenic pigs were born in August 2007 – and a lot more are on the way in the months ahead.

The pigs were developed in close collaboration between scientists from several departments and institutions, including the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen and the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Aarhus.

One step further – one layer deeper

Continuing and further education at the University of Aarhus

Many people experience that their work changes character the day they get a new job, just as education programmes in many areas become outdated much faster than they used to. The University of Aarhus regards it as one of its duties to contribute to competence development and to continuing and further education in order to safeguard the Danish knowledge society amid increasing global competition. At a more personal level, the university would also like to contribute to arousing and satisfying the individual citizen’s curiosity after exploring and understanding the world we live in.

The university offers three types of qualifying continuing and further education programmes, all of which are based on the research carried out at the university: part-time Master’s degree programmes, diploma degree programmes, and part-time Bachelor’s degree programmes and sections of Master’s degree programmes.

Most of these are planned so that students can combine their education with their jobs.

The university’s continuing and further education offers are intended for companies and people with jobs in both the private and public sectors who require new knowledge and theory, as well as new, documented methodologies and tools to develop their usual practice.

See also page 29.
From research to actual progress

By means of systematic patent applications and collaboration agreements with private firms, the University of Aarhus has become better at conveying the results of research conducted by members of staff to the general public. The number of patents and collaborative agreements has increased significantly in just a few years.

Even though he finally delivered his PhD dissertation for approval a week ago, which means he should have cleared his desk immediately, and although his girlfriend and newborn son are waiting at home, Jakob Lohmann has postponed his holidays in favour of yet another fortnight’s hard work at the Institute of Clinical Medicine.

In collaboration with Associate Professor Jørn Koch and PhD student Magnus Stougaard, he has developed a new method for taking much more precise analyses of cell specimens than previously possible, so that diseases such as cancer can – in time – be diagnosed more rapidly. Before he takes paternity leave and starts changing nappies, he needs to make sure that almost three and a half years of work is patent protected. This will make it easier in the future to attend to the actual practical reality of working with a private firm.

“It takes time, of course, but we get help from the university to finish off the work, and it’s also important to see it all the way through so that our results can reach further than just our own laboratory,” explains Mr Lohmann.

A special office helps with applications
After the University of Aarhus initiated a much more targeted effort to get researchers and students to take out patents on their research and to possibly enter into collaborative agreements with private companies, a total of 71 patent applications were sent in 2005 and 2006, and 12 collaborative agreements were finalised – far more than in the previous years.

The massive amount of paperwork had presumably discouraged many researchers from submitting patents on their inventions, but the university now has a special office – the Technology Transfer Office – which can help with advice, facilitate contact with potential investors, and put the researchers in touch with specialists in writing the detailed applications.

Not for the money’s sake
Although, in formal terms, the university actually owns the right to inventions researchers make during their working time, this has no practical significance according to Mr Lohmann. Firstly, agreements are often put together in such a way that the researchers can actually earn a modest amount on them and secondly, any profits have far more long-reaching prospects.

“You mustn’t do this for money’s sake, but to learn something and be more focused in your work. I dreamt a bit about the money to start with, but you soon find out how much development work is required and how big an amount the investors need to spend in order to turn research into reality. The important thing for me has been sitting in on board meetings and business discussions and getting insight in this way into a world I knew absolutely nothing about. At the same time, it’s good to see what you do being used for something,” he explains.

Darwin and Einstein draw full houses

People from town and country – young and old alike – flock to the university to be led through the world of science in successful series of lectures offered in collaboration with the People’s University. Every term since 2005, audiences have heard about research into subjects such as Einstein’s physics, water, life, scientific breakthroughs, and – in autumn 2007 – symmetries and patterns.

Audiences have shown enormous interest, and 400–800 interested citizens turn up every evening to be beguiled by the scientific revelations.

An important factor contributing to this success is that the level of the lectures is both high and challenging. Audiences have a chance to come to the university and see and hear lively researchers who also spread their message with a twinkle in their eye.

A secure netbank. Professor Mogens Nielsen from the Department of Computer Science talks about mathematics and computer science combining to ensure communication between an Internet bank and its users.
None of the three researchers has a moment’s doubt that their inventions have potential.

Doctors currently have to examine many thousands of cells at a time if they are looking for signs of cancer, for example. Instead of this, the new method requires much smaller specimens by getting a small circle of DNA to lie around the individual RNA strand in a single cell. The circle can then be copied up into a size where the RNA can be examined, and any changes can be seen immediately.

Can save human lives

If the new method is finally perfected, it will be possible to trace the results of chemotherapy, for example, in the course of a few days instead of the current situation after weeks or months of treatment. This can, to a significant degree, mean the difference between life and death.

The research group has already submitted two other patent applications as well, and in the course of eighteen months, has been in touch with investors who would like to help turn the results into treatment methods.

28,000 alumni invited to reunion

Much has happened since 2006, when the Aarhus School of Business launched “ASB Alumni” and invited all alumni to a reunion for the first time. The alumni network at the Aarhus School of Business had great success with its first reunion in 2006, when 550 alumni attended. This year, 28,000 were invited.

There are already close to 5,000 members, and the first network groups – with a focus on particular subject-related topics – are in the start-up phase. This enables alumni to communicate with each other via the Internet, as well as with researchers at the Aarhus School of Business.
Start with 9th and 10th-year classes

- What is bioinformatics?
- Are you interested in the fantastic animal and plant life below the sea’s surface?
- Computer science – what is that?
- What does a physicist actually research?
- Are you interested in the mysteries of the body, and are you fascinated by superb athletic performances?
- What happens when you scale up chemistry to cubic metres and tons in a conical flask?
- Why is mathematics not just about rearranging large numbers and figures?
- What causes global warming?

These are some of the questions that school leavers can get the answers to if they attend a period of practical training at the Faculty of Science. The faculty invites 200 pupils to attend a five-day period of vocational training in which they are introduced to four or five different subjects throughout the week.

What would the Aarhus Festival be without “Nature in the Tent”?

“Nature in the Tent” is a festive display of experiments, demonstrations and lectures that take place in a striped tent at the town hall square during the Aarhus Festival week. Students from the Faculty of Science, the Aarhus Technical College, the Risskov Upper Secondary School and the Engineering College of Aarhus promote science in a way that is striking, entertaining and easily understandable. They are passionate about their subject and will do anything to tell a good story and demonstrate exciting experiments.

Both children and adults who have been pondering a particular point of science can have their questions answered – no matter what they might be – in the “Question Corner”. The “Career Corner” provides inspiration about how to get involved in science as a pastime, as well as answers to questions about careers and choice of studies.