



The boundary-breaking
university

Openness

Participation

Courage

Diversity


Sustainability



”Åbo Akademi University is a boundary-breaking university that is widely recognised for scholarship at the highest scientific level within its profile areas, and for a Swedish-speaking environment that fosters internationally competitive research and education.”

Åbo Akademi University Strategy 2015–2020

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Åbo Akademi University looks to the future

Mikko Hupa
Rector

Åbo Akademi University is one of the most international universities in Finland; nearly one fifth of the students are international under- and postgraduate students. The vision of our nearly 100-year-old university is that, by 2020, Åbo Akademi University will be a university that breaks linguistic and cultural boundaries, where the Swedish-speaking academic community is in full synergy with an international atmosphere, and where both education and research are of the highest quality.

During its first 100 years, Åbo Akademi University has grown from a small provincial university into an internationally recognised academic university with top research in both engineering and biosciences as well as in topical social issues. In terms of education, we offer 20 programmes that will provide students with a broad foundation for specialisation at the advanced level. We are constantly developing the education and its quality by carefully listening to the feedback from students and responding to the changes of the labour market.

Now, as we approach our 100th anniversary, it's time to look to the future. Where is our university going? What do the students of today and tomorrow, society, business life and the public at large expect from us? Our primary task is to actively contribute to solving future social challenges. For this purpose, we offer new research findings that will advance, among other things, health, the environment, education and equality. It is equally important for us to educate critically thinking individuals and provide them with those competences required by society.

We welcome you to join us for an exciting journey into the future!

CONTENTS

10

INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION IN SWEDISH

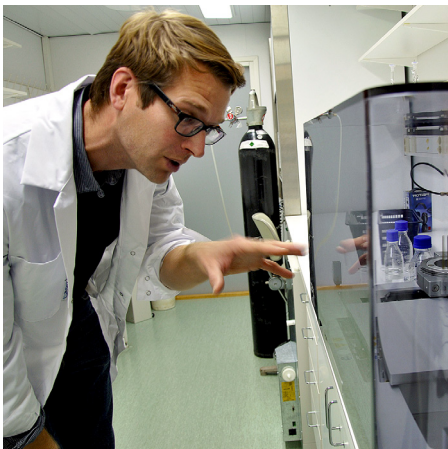


SUCCESSFUL
AND EXCITING
RESEARCH

6

14

CENTRALLY
LOCATED CAMPUS



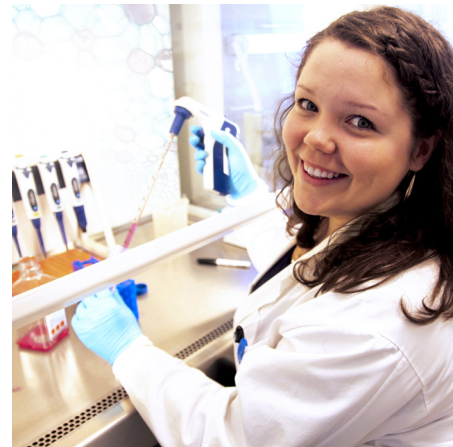
12

A FAMILIAR
UNIVERSITY WHERE
EVERYONE
FEELS WELCOME



19

ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY
IN A NUTSHELL



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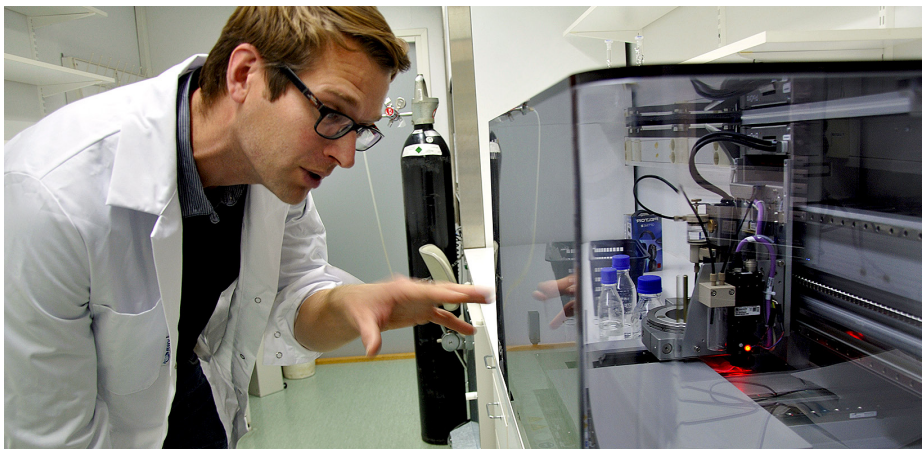
20

COMPETENCE AND
WELL-BEING

24

JOIN US
TO REALISE
THE FUTURE





Successful and exciting research

At Åbo Akademi University, internationally recognised, high-standard research is conducted within all four faculties. To reinforce research activities, we encourage co-operation and a cross-disciplinary approach.

Currently, for profiling purposes, Åbo Akademi University has identified three focal areas of research: Minority research, Molecular process and material technology, and Drug development and diagnostics.

Within research, Åbo Akademi University fosters the Finland-Swedish perspective. To be internationally competitive, however, expanding from the Finland-Swedish perspective towards an

internationally relevant profiling around minority issues in general is a key ambition for Åbo Akademi University's research activities during the strategy period 2015–2020.

In the field of molecular process and material technology, research is conducted, for example, on the production techniques of environmentally-friendly chemicals, health-promoting substances and fuel components.

Drug development and diagnostics is an area of research in which Åbo Akademi University is investing jointly with the University of Turku.

Professor of Pharmacy, Niklas Sandler, is Åbo Akademi University's Vice-rector for Research Affairs.

“Within pharmaceutical research, we have many exciting projects underway, including basic research in cell biology to support drug development, nanotechnology to find innovative solutions for diagnostics, and new techniques such as 3D printing to produce drugs. We also attempt to find more targeted ‘selective’ drugs, which may, among other things, facilitate a more gentle yet effective cancer treatment.”

Minority research

Molecular process and material technology

Drug development



Courage

Åbo Akademi University takes part in two national Centres of Excellence appointed by the Academy of Finland:

The Centre of Excellence for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease (2014–2019) is a joint research project of Åbo Akademi University, the University of Turku, the Central University Hospital of Turku and the University of Eastern Finland.

The Centre of Excellence project **History of Society: Re-thinking Finland 1400–2000** aims to show how Finland has become what it is today, to expose the relevant driving forces and to sketch out possible alternative events. The project has funding for the years 2012–2017 and is being conducted in partnership with the Universities of Tampere and Jyväskylä.

Åbo Akademi University has four internal Centres of Excellence that are funded by the Åbo Akademi University Endowment:

Brain Training: taking the next step is led by Professor of Psychology, Matti Laine.

YARG – Young adults and religion in a global perspective: A cross-cultural, comparative and mixed-method study of religious subjectivities and values in their context is led by Professor of Comparative Religion, Peter Nynäs.

Future Refining of Forest Biomass is led by Professor of Chemical Reaction Technique, Tapio Salmi.

Functional Materials at Biological Interfaces is led by Professor of Physics, Ronald Österbacka.





International education in Swedish

For nearly a century, Åbo Akademi University has provided quality education in Swedish. Åbo Akademi University is among the smaller universities in Finland, but it offers a wide range of disciplines and subjects. For students, the atmosphere is cosy and the spirit among students is good, as are also the relations between students and staff members. Åbo Akademi University's strength lies in its small size. There is flexibility for teachers to try out new methods, which are

assessed and further developed on a regular basis. Methods and approaches that activate students will provide them with qualifications and skills for future work tasks, even those that do not yet exist.

Åbo Akademi University's vision is that, by 2020, it will be a university that breaks linguistic and cultural boundaries. Despite its Swedish hallmark, approximately one fifth of the students at Åbo Akademi University have Finnish as their native language. Throughout the years,

Åbo Akademi University has also been an international university, and currently, it is a member in, for example, the Coimbra Group comprised of 40 of the oldest universities in different European countries. Åbo Akademi University is active within the Coimbra Group and several other international networks, thus opening opportunities for student exchanges to and from the university. For the time being, Åbo Akademi University offers nine international Master's programmes in English.

ARTS, PSYCHOLOGY AND THEOLOGY

Culture, History and Philosophy

Logopedics

Psychology

Languages

Theology

SOCIAL SCIENCES, BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Business and Economics

Bachelor of Laws

Social Sciences

STUDY PROGRAMMES

EDUCATION AND WELFARE STUDIES

General Education and Adult Education

Pre-school teachers

Health Sciences

Class teachers

Social Sciences

Special education teachers

Subject teachers

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Biosciences

Information Technology

Natural Sciences

Pharmacy

Chemical Engineering



A familiar university where everyone feels welcome



Jasmine Hietala enjoys studying at Åbo Akademi University. She came from her hometown of Pori (Björneborg in Swedish) to study in Turku (Åbo) four years ago.

Åbo Akademi University was an attractive choice because of its multidisciplinary character and opportunities to combine subjects for a unique degree. Jasmine wanted to study in a Swedish-speaking environment. She also appreciated the possibilities for international exchange studies offered by Åbo Akademi University.

JASMINE HIETALA

Major:

International Marketing.

Minor:

Fashion Studies at the University of Stockholm, Sweden.

Native language:

Finnish.

Memories to keep from the study years:

The charming Biskopsgatan street, all faculties within a short distance.

Three aspects that are unique to ÅAU:

1. Small group sizes, which facilitates close relations between the personnel and students.
2. Ease of creating networks during studies. Contacts that can be called on during working life.
3. Rich student life with a variety of activities to suit all tastes.



Participation

Centrally located campus

Åbo Akademi University's campus areas are centrally located and situated in historical environments with cultural highlights.



Åbo (Turku in Finnish)

The Cathedral is the gateway to the charming Åbo Akademi University campus area. The campus houses a great number of different disciplines and fields of study, and yet everything is near and closely related. It's natural to meet with others across the subject boundaries.

Vasa (Vaasa)

Beautifully located along the shore, the former industrial mill is, today, the home for Academill. A modern campus is situated in an old building with a rich history.

Jakobstad (Pietarsaari)

Campus Allegro is shared by students of different universities. Thanks to the co-operation between the different universities, students are able to take selected courses offered by the other Campus Allegro universities.



Student activities

There are numerous student associations and plenty of activities available, not to mention the rich traditions. The Student Union of Åbo Akademi University has many special associations organising different events year round. Students can choose from a wide variety of activities offered by cultural, political, music and subject-specific associations.





”The fundamental goal of Åbo Akademi University is to promote Finland as a country where the Swedish language and Finland-Swedish culture are blooming in enriching interaction with other languages and cultures.”

Åbo Akademi University Strategy 2015–2020



Library

Åbo Akademi University Library is a public university library that has served as one of the legal depository libraries in Finland since 1919. It maintains the Finland-Swedish national library collections, including extensive manuscript and picture collections. Since 1995, the library has carried out digitalisation to a limited extent.

Institute of Maritime History

The Institute of Maritime History is a special archive and library with a focus on maritime history and maritime ethnology. The institute's history goes back to the year 1936 when the first maritime museum in Finland was established, under the name Sjöhistoriska museet vid Åbo Akademi.



Sibelius Museum

The first Professor in Musicology at Åbo Akademi University, Otto Andersson, laid the groundwork for the Sibelius Museum in 1926 through his collections, known as the Collection of Musical History at Åbo Akademi University. The Sibelius Museum is open to the public year round. Still closely associated with Åbo Akademi University, the Sibelius Museum is located at the heart of the campus.



Åbo Akademi University Endowment

The purpose of the Åbo Akademi University Endowment is to provide financial support to Åbo Akademi University, and to otherwise support and advance Finland-Swedish cultural activities, particularly in the field of scientific research.

The Endowment was established in 1917. The majority of its capital is invested in shares and real estate. A large portion of the real estate is at the disposal of Åbo Akademi University or other educational institutions.



The museum "Ett hem"

Within the Åbo Akademi University campus area, there is a museum that invites you to visit an upper-class home from the turn of the 20th century. Spouses Hélène and Alfred Jacobsson bequeathed their home to the Endowment. Guided tours are arranged to see the rooms filled with art and antiques.



Nordic co-operation

Åbo Akademi University has extensive co-operation with the other Nordic universities. Explained by linguistic, historical and cultural reasons, an important task for Åbo Akademi University is to maintain and reinforce contacts with the other Nordic countries. The Nordic co-operation covers all fields of research carried out at Åbo Akademi University. Forms of co-operation include student and teacher exchange, shared education, joint research projects and networks, as well as strategic partnerships.

ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY IN A NUTSHELL

Students:

5,500 undergraduate students
820 postgraduate students
1,050 international students from
80 countries.
540 Master's degrees and
75 Doctor's degrees per year.

Personnel:

Altogether 1,300 employees,
660 working in teaching and
research.

Budget:

Overall annual budget is approx.
105 million euro, including
38 million euro in external funding.

Publications:

1,500 scientific publications
per year.

Adult education:

Open university, approx.
3,100 students.
Centre for Lifelong Learning,
7,100 participants.

Competence and well-being

Åbo Akademi University is tasked to create and disseminate new information. University researchers make findings that are of importance for individuals and society at large and, at the same time, the education provided by the university is based on scientific research. The aim is to ensure that, once they graduate, the students are well equipped to add their own knowledge to the wider context, and to find their place in the labour market and thereby contribute to society.



Providing the students and staff members with a good work environment is a key aspect for ensuring a proper education and sustainable future for new graduates. As part of quality management, Åbo Akademi University monitors well-being by means of regular surveys, and there are programmes in place for equality, early intervention and wellness activities for both staff members and students.

The Career Services at Åbo Akademi University assist students in career

planning, counselling and internships. It also provides graduates with tools they need to find a job. The Career Services also follows up on the positioning of graduates in the labour market, and the survey results indicate high employment rates.

Åbo Akademi University is not only for young people. You can come to Åbo Akademi University at any stage of life if you wish to expand your competence by taking courses at the Centre for Lifelong

Learning. The alumni – those who, at some point, have studied or worked at Åbo Akademi University – are another group the Åbo Akademi University wishes to continue to co-operate with, both on festive occasions and in more serious forms such as mentor programmes or other co-operation.

Sustainability



For equality and equal opportunities

Åbo Akademi University endeavours to promote equality and equal opportunities, and it has also drawn up a programme for the purpose of reaching out to students with functional impairments. The programme highlights the different aspects of accessibility – physical, mental and social – and draws specific attention to reading and writing difficulties (dyslexia) and mental health issues.

As an educational institution, public body and employer, we aim to systematically advance and safeguard equal opportunities, and to prevent and prohibit any discrimination.



Join us to realise the future

Åbo Akademi University was founded with funds from private donors. The foundation laid by 35 private donors made it possible for a Swedish-language university to be established in Finland in 1918.

As Åbo Akademi University is approaching its 100th anniversary, it again turns to its friends and benefactors

for the purpose of raising funds. With your help, we can guarantee the provision, in Finland, of quality teaching and research in Swedish, now and in the future. At the same time, we see the fundraising campaign as an opportunity to expand and intensify our contacts with new and established co-operation partners.

Your donation will increase in value, as the State has introduced a matched funding scheme, which may up to triple the value of your donation. Thus, the State is prepared to invest a maximum of three euros for each donated euro up until 30 June 2017.

Thank you, all donations are valuable!



Donations of 10,000 euro or more can be directed to any of the eleven fields of education at Åbo Akademi University.

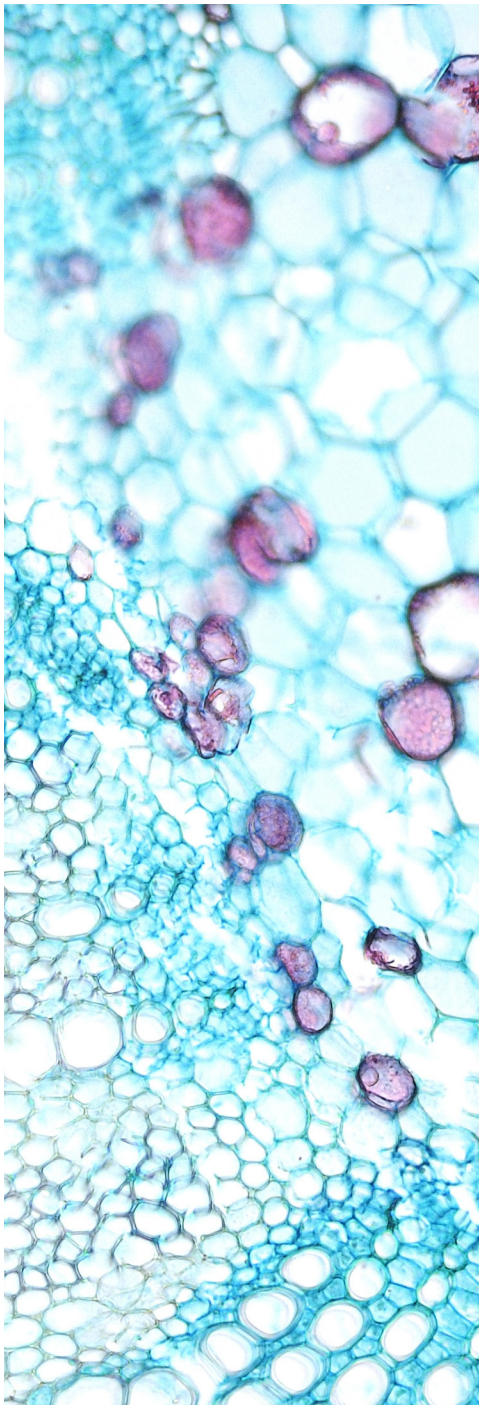
The matched funding from the State will be added to the basic capital of Åbo Akademi University, and only its annual return will be used.

Donations of 850–250,000 euro made by communities or organisations are tax deductible. Donations can be paid in instalments.

More information, payment instructions and the money collection permit details are available online at www.abo.fi/donate

Contact us via e-mail to fundraising@abo.fi





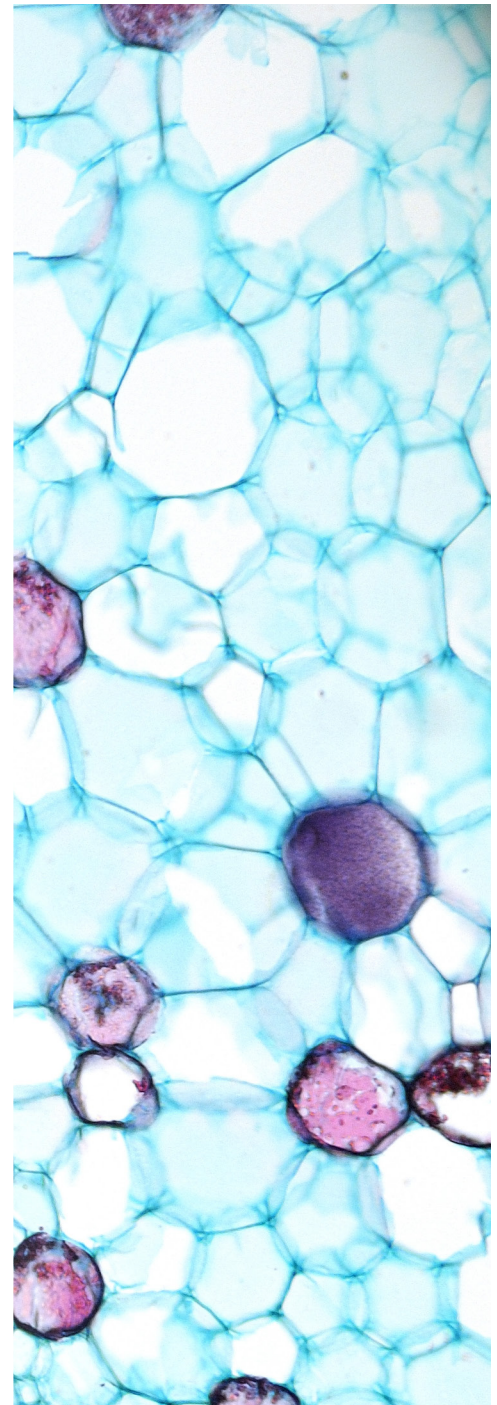
Iris is conducting research, thanks to the donors

Doctoral candidate Iris Lähdeniemi is grateful. Thanks to generous donations to Åbo Akademi University, she is currently employed within the Doctoral Network in Molecular Biosciences. She is involved in cell research aimed to advance cancer research. Her specific field of research concerns colon epithelial cells, more precisely the cell division and differentiation. Thus, she is making her input to scientific knowledge surrounding the development of colorectal cancers.

“It’s so exciting to study cell biology! Think about the feeling when you succeed in finding something nobody knew about before, that’s what all scientists desire to experience. My dream is to be able to contribute to my field of research by making a finding that would benefit people’s general health,” says Iris.

What are the donations used for?

The donated funds will add to the ÅAU 100-Anniversary Fund and be used, for example, to improve the conditions for research and teaching, acquire research infrastructure and modernise teaching environments. Åbo Akademi University will also create financial resources to be able to invest strategically in the current and future research profiles.



The growth of a new generation of researchers is ensured by the Graduate School at Åbo Akademi University. Within the Graduate School, there are 12 positions for doctoral students funded by the Åbo Akademi University Endowment, and every second year, another 30–40 doctoral candidates, funded by Åbo Akademi University, are admitted. These postgraduate student positions are distributed through doctoral networks over a variety of fields, ranging from art history to material studies and human rights. In addition, there are several researchers whose work is financed through different sources of funding.





Åbo Akademi
University

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