OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
Research that makes a difference, education that breaks new ground, cooperation that sparks progress and a work environment that inspires.

From the University of Gothenburg’s steering document Vision 2020.
The mission of the University of Gothenburg is to create and disseminate new knowledge. By being open to the outside world and by participating in public debate, the whole work of the University influences and contributes to the development of society.

The University’s research contributes to solutions to major societal problems, for example in the areas of worldwide democratic development and global health. The University’s researchers continue to make new discoveries of relevance to both individuals and society at large. National and international collaboration leads to new perspectives and solutions to problems.

The University’s students are educated in a close inter-relationship with research. They are encouraged to adopt innovative and critical thinking.

With the right tools, they can integrate knowledge into a larger context and contribute to the development of society. The University’s research and education are permeated by a critical approach and shall be free from the influence of any political, economic and ideological interests.
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RESEARCH

The research at the University of Gothenburg is at the highest international level. Just a few of those fields in which the University’s researchers can compare with the best in the world include science, democracy, ageing and learning.

Democracy research
Current work in this area includes the worldwide research project Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem). This project measures all dimensions of democracy in all the countries of the world, from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. The aim is to be able to understand and explain what makes a country a democracy.

Marine research
Some of this research is carried out at the University’s two marine stations, Kristineberg and Tjärnö. The University of Gothenburg is also the host and coordinator of the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment, assigned by the Swedish government to increase awareness of the current state of the marine environment.

Learning research
LinCS stands for the Linnaeus Centre for Research on Learning, Interaction and Mediated Communication in Contemporary Society. The focus of the research is primarily on the consequences of the new media for learning within and outside the educational system.

Care research
GPCC is the University’s centre for person-centred care. Here, research is focused on how long-term illness is managed by the individual. The main objective is to achieve a more resource-efficient healthcare system in which individuals take greater responsibility for their own health.

Ageing research
AgeCap is the University’s centre for ageing and health. The centre is processing the comprehensive population studies H70 and H90 which started in the 1970s. The aim of the work at the centre is to improve people’s quality of life and participation in society.
WIDE RANGE OF COURSES AND PROGRAMMES

Students can study to become a doctor, journalist or actor, but may also choose to take single courses in subjects such as archaeology, marine biology or French. The options are seemingly unlimited, and those who wish to compose their own education portfolio are free to do so. There are also ample opportunities to complete some of the studies in a foreign country.

There is a close inter-relationship between education and research. The education has an international profile, is of high scientific and artistic quality, and is characterised by excellent teaching methods.

The University of Gothenburg is not just for young students, but welcomes people of all ages who wish to learn more.

DID YOU ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG?

If so, you’re an alumnus and are welcome to join our network. Your experiences gained in working life and from the University are important. We would, therefore, like to stay in touch with you. Important contacts are established with fellow students and teachers while at the University. One way to maintain and expand your networks is to join the University of Gothenburg’s alumni network.

www.gu.se/english/cooperation/alumni
West Sweden has a long tradition of cooperation between academia, business and industry and the public sector. Different actors work together to promote the region and develop a society in which people wish to live, study and work.

The University of Gothenburg has a responsibility for supplying the labour market with the correct competence. This requires a close dialogue with employers. The University’s students are introduced to and establish contacts with the labour market and employers through student placements or projects carried out together with businesses and organisations.

Researchers don’t only contribute with their research results. They also participate in government inquiries, participate in the public debate and are often featured as experts in the media.

One of the University’s major cooperation partners is Region Västra Götaland in the field of health and dental care. Close ties have also been established with several of Gothenburg’s cultural institutions.

Several actors in West Sweden – the University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University of Technology, the City of Gothenburg, Region Västra Götaland and the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce – cooperate in five specified clusters: urban future, the marine environment and the maritime sector, transport solutions, green chemistry and bio-based products, and life science.

The close cooperation between the University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology has been developing over many years.

These institutions share several departments and work hand-in-hand in many different contexts in order to develop Gothenburg as a city of knowledge.

Cooperation is the key to utilising research findings to the practical benefit of society. This is true of everything from new medicines and health guidelines to new ways of organising a workplace or introducing new teaching models in schools.
One example is the annual International Science Festival – arranged jointly with the City of Gothenburg. The festival is one of Europe’s leading popular science events and is filled with hundreds of activities and lectures.

The public can visit the marine research stations Kristineberg and Tjärnö, the Department of Conservation in Mariestad and the schools for crafts and design in Steneby to learn more about culture and the marine environment.

The University of Gothenburg is a co-founder of Universeum, Scandinavia’s largest science centre. Universeum offers a wide variety of activities for young people to stimulate their interest in the natural sciences, mathematics and technology.

The Gothenburg Botanical Garden is a well-visited oasis for the people in Gothenburg. It is also home to researchers from the University who use the garden and its facilities in order to study the diversity and genetics of plants, develop horticultural methods and preserve endangered species.

The presence of the University of Gothenburg can be noted across the city. Teachers, researchers and students are continuously reaching out to the public with new knowledge and new perspectives. Through popular science lectures, seminars and other events, members of the public can learn more about current research.

The University is also a scientific cooperation partner of the Nordens Ark zoo in the province of Bohuslän north of Gothenburg. The principal aim of the zoo is to save endangered animals from extinction.

Jonsered Manor outside Gothenburg is a popular venue for meetings between academia and other actors in society who come together to reflect on culture, science, life and politics.

MANY MEETING PLACES
The University of Gothenburg sees the city as a valuable asset as it continues to attract students and researchers. At the same time, the University plays an important role in the city by providing the community with new knowledge and well-educated citizens. One explicit aim of the University of Gothenburg is that all education and research shall be internationally oriented. This corresponds well with the city’s ambition to serve as a meeting place for business, industry and tourism.

Not long ago, Gothenburg was characterised by heavy industry. Today the focus has shifted to innovation, entrepreneurship and events. The old shipyards have been replaced by new, modern city districts. Music and culture festivals attract big crowds. So do large international conferences and trade shows. For those in need of more than the city pulse, forests, lakes and the archipelago are only minutes away.

The University of Gothenburg is a city university in the heart of Scandinavia. With 37,000 students and 6,000 University staff members, it contributes to Gothenburg’s vibrant city centre, which offers many opportunities for cultural experiences and café visits.

GOTHENBURG ATTRACTS STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS
FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The University of Gothenburg aims to be one of the leading universities within sustainable development. Social, economic and ecological sustainability aspects must always be considered.

Over 400 freestanding courses and almost 100 study programmes address environmental concerns and sustainable development in some form. International research collaborations are common. For example, the University’s cooperation in the fields of marine science and environmental economics involves scientists from several different countries.

The social work environment is an important part of the University’s sustainability efforts. An explicit focus on issues of equal treatment and diversity facilitates an atmosphere of mutual respect among students and staff.

The University of Gothenburg was one of the first universities in the world to become environmentally certified. The University is working continuously to reduce its environmental footprint from, for example, the use of chemicals, energy consumption and travel. These efforts have inspired many other higher education institutions around the world.
Thanks to large donations by several of Gothenburg’s wealthy families, Gothenburg University College opened in 1891. On the first day of the autumn semester, the first seven professors started working with the first 22 students. The university college consisted of a traditional faculty of arts – humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Sixty-three years later, the University of Gothenburg was inaugurated on 2 October 1954. In the 1970s, several separate schools and colleges were incorporated into the University. Several of the present day faculties and departments have names that can be traced back to their origins: the School of Business, Economics and Law, the School of Public Administration, the Academy of Music and Drama, the School of Design and Crafts, and Valand Academy.

The University of Gothenburg’s research and education have been permeated by social engagement and openness to society since the very beginning, and these virtues are as noticeable today as ever.

The University of Gothenburg was not built in a day. Instead it has been built and expanded gradually ever since that day in May 1864 when a group of socially engaged citizens came up with the idea of a free academy in an article published in the newspaper Göteborgs Handels- och sjöfartstidning.

MANY SCHOOLS BECAME ONE UNIVERSITY