

A UNIVERSITY FOR THE WORLD

THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG'S VISION 2021–2030



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THE VISION – A UNIVERSITY FOR THE WORLD

The vision *A university for the world* expresses the University of Gothenburg's endeavour to be an international higher-education and research institution which assumes responsibility for the development of society while helping to build a sustainable world.

Proceeding from present-day needs and challenges, staff and students contribute to the shaping of a future as yet unknown. The University's purpose-orientated organisation and governance create the scope and conditions for dedication and curiosity, qualities that promote top-quality education and research as well as innovative and cross-border collaboration.

The Vision asserts the core values and overarching commitments articulated by the University of Gothenburg. In conjunction with strategies defined by and for the University as a whole in order to facilitate concrete operational planning, these ideas will guide the university's development through the period from 2021 to 2030.

THE CORE VALUES OF THE VISION

The University of Gothenburg is part of the international scientific community and shares the fundamental academic values laid down in the *Magna Charta Universitatum* in connection with the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna in 1988. The Magna Charta has been signed by over 900 vice-chancellors of universities all over the world, the University of Gothenburg included.

The four principles announced in the Magna Charta form the basis of the University's core values. *Autonomy* establishes that the university shall be morally and intellectually independent of political, ideological, and economic interests. *The inseparability of teaching and research* in complete academic settings ensures that developments rest on the needs of society as well as on scholarly and scientific progress. *Academic freedom* and the pursuit of *universal knowledge* define the framework and direction of teaching and research, a great variety of scientific approaches coming together in free and open conversation.

In addition, the University of Gothenburg has the legal status of a Swedish public authority. Consequently, its operations are required to adhere to the principles that govern public administration in this country: democracy, legality, impartiality, objectivity, free forming of opinions, respect, efficiency, and service.



THE COMMITMENTS OF THE VISION

Three overarching commitments define the direction in which the University is set to develop:

- Top-quality education and research.
- Sustainable and knowledge-based societal development.
- A coherent organisation, and an attractive place of work and study.

These commitments were formulated on the basis of the core values of academia and the relations that are fundamental to the work of the University: the relationship with the scientific community; the relationship with the world around us; and relations within the University organisation.

Our commitments bring together a variety of perspectives on the operations of the University. The balance, and tension, between these perspectives feed the forward-looking energy on which the future development of the University depends.

Top-quality education and research

The University of Gothenburg will foster internationally distinguished education and research in all the University's sciences and arts, with a view to contributing to the evolution of knowledge and enhancing its own competitive power.

Education and research at the University will be characterised by scholarly-scientific and pedagogical collaboration in complete academic environments guided by ethical considerations. Staff and students driven by curiosity, creativity, and the unrestricted pursuit of knowledge in vigorous disciplines come together in order to evolve fresh knowledge.

Continuous quality-improvement efforts will contribute to the development of knowledge while strengthening the international competitiveness and recognition of the University. These efforts include the promotion of academic culture in a spirit of loyalty among colleagues as well as the dissemination of findings and experiences.

All education will be connected to research, and the quality of both teaching and research will be reinforced by collaborative

projects on local, regional, national, and international levels. The University will work actively to counter inequality to counteracting inequalities at the structural level while upholding norms which ensure that staff and students treat one another with mutual respect.

Sustainable and knowledge-based societal development

The University of Gothenburg will strengthen its relevance as an agent and a partner in society, with the aim of influencing societal development and contributing to the fulfilment of the global development goals.

Firmly anchored in the University's tradition of a powerful commitment to social progress, unfettered research, and a high level of general education, staff and students will work towards sustainable societal development in the long term.

In close cooperation with a variety of agents in society, on local, regional, national, and international levels, the University will pursue improvement and innovation in society at large. By way of constant development in education and research, the University will meet society's long-term need for competences and knowledge while preparing students for their future working lives.

The University will step up its contribution towards the sustainable-development goals articulated by the United Nations' General Assembly in Agenda 2030.

A coherent organisation, and an attractive place of work and study

The University of Gothenburg will develop as a coherent organisation, as well as an attractive place of work and study, in order to reinforce the quality and relevance of the education and research conducted at the University.

The organisation of the University will be coherent in a well-balanced manner, promoting the idea of the University as a whole. The development and governance of the University are informed by recognition of the crucial influence exercised by the academic profession as well as by students. The quality and relevance of the University's operations will be developed by way of stable conditions, a sense of involvement, and cross-border collaboration of various kinds, all of which will be imbued with respect, reciprocity, and joint responsibility. Consequently, the University will be governed with keen attention to long-term perspectives and in a spirit of decentralisation and trust.

All staff and students will contribute to the development of education and research by virtue of their various roles and competences. The University will be characterised by collaboration in a wide sense, staff and students together shaping an internationally attractive place of work and study. Combined with active leadership, dialogues and processes sustained by the cooperation of peers will create working conditions in which the range of a full-scale university is an ever-present advantage.



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