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PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY –
STRATEGY FOR 2020

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Philosophical Faculty: Humans as cultural and social beings

The Philosophical Faculty is one of the four faculties of the University of Eastern Finland. We are a multidisciplinary unit that conducts scientific research and provides academic education. Our mission is to serve Eastern Finland and the whole country and to interact with the international scientific community in the fields that we represent. Our education and research are centred on humans and human activity.

OUR CHALLENGES INCLUDE

Cultural encounters, mobilities, and borders

Learning in a digitised society

Ageing, lifestyles, and health

The strategy of the University of Eastern Finland identifies four global challenges. The challenges that our faculty is trying to find answers to across several branches of science relate especially to cultural encounters, mobilities, and borders as well as learning in a digitised society. We also study ageing, lifestyles, and health.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ARE

- To promote internationally recognised research relating to languages, cultures and religions
- To build a strong cluster of educational science know-how that studies teacher training, education, learning, teaching, and counselling, and provides education based on scientific evidence in these areas
- To develop a tradition of psychological life course and educability research and to build a stable foundation for health psychology education and research

Our curriculum will be revised so as to make our Bachelor's degrees more diverse and so that our Master's degrees enable profession-based specialisation. We will strengthen our research resources by means of strategic recruitment and by developing our research infrastructure. The activities of the faculty will be concentrated on the Joensuu Campus in 2018, after which our goal will be to establish a stable operating environment where the work of the scientific community boosts the performance of our education and research areas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND AND ITS PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY ARE KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY FOR

- Research in the humanities
- Research on learning and learning environments
- Research on the religious traditions of the East and the West

Our open-minded approach has led us to explore various research paths and themes: linguistic and cultural encounters and contexts; communication, technology, and ageing. Our most important areas of research relating to educational sciences include research on schools, on the use of information and communication technology in teaching, and on natural sciences teaching and learning environments. Our geographical position in the meeting point of the religious traditions of the East and the West gives us a unique opportunity to study encounters and interaction between these traditions.

OUR STRATEGICALLY MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF RESEARCH

International, top-level research areas

- *Borders, mobilities, and cultural encounters*

Advanced-level, strong research areas

- *Learning in interactive environments*

Emerging research areas

- *Communication in an increasingly technological world*
- *Schools and pedagogy of the future*

Research on borders, mobilities, and cultural encounters is carried out by research clusters in the Philosophical Faculty and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies. It employs multidisciplinary approaches to study the borders between Europe and Russia, the socio-economic and cultural development of border regions, cross-border mobility, and cultural and linguistic encounters.

Multidisciplinary research groups on learning in interactive environments focus on the learning of the key skills and know-how needed in a changing society and the factors that regulate the learning process at different stages of an individual's life. The research also involves developing and testing new pedagogical approaches relating to learning, technological solutions, and learning environments.

The underlying theme of research on humanist technology is communication in its different forms. The aim is to study the viability of technological innovations and to produce new solutions for tangible life situations and operating environments.

Research on the schools and pedagogy of the future focuses on linking research-based evidence to the development of schools' daily routines. We strive to understand the factors that promote teachers' and students' commitment to school, teaching and learning practices, and well-being.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Strengthening our strategic partnerships in international cooperation and social interaction with businesses, government, regional, and local partners, and non-governmental organisations
- Developing transnational education together with FinUni
- Internationalising our education and increasing student mobility
- Improving the quality of research
- Building a solid foundation for and developing our national and international research and education networks
- Increasing the amount of our supplementary funding
- Giving more attention to performance when allocating resources within the faculty

DIRECTION 2020

UEF // University of Eastern Finland // PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY –
STRATEGY FOR 2016–2020: HUMANS AS CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BEINGS

/2016

Our CHALLENGES



*Cultural encounters, mobilities,
and borders*



Learning in a digitised society



Ageing, lifestyles, and health

/2020

Our strategic OBJECTIVES

- > *To promote internationally recognised research relating to languages and cultures, and religions*
- > *To build a strong cluster of educational science*
- > *To develop a tradition of psychological life course and educability research and to build a stable foundation for health psychology education and research*

IMPLEMENTERS OF THE STRATEGY
STAFF | STUDENTS



KEY SUCCESS FACTORS
expertise – motivation – commitment

UEF =



UEF is globally renowned for its:

- *Research in the humanities*
- *Research on learning and learning environments*
- *Research on the religious traditions of the East and the West*

Strategic research areas

UEF// International top level

- ▶ *Borders, mobilities, and cultural encounters*

UEF// Advanced & strong

- ▶ *Learning in interactive environments*

UEF// Emerging

- ▶ *Communication in an increasingly technological world*
- ▶ *Schools and pedagogy of the future*

Education

1 *Finland's most diverse provider of teacher education*

4,000

BACHELOR'S & MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENTS

400

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

400

MASTER'S DEGREES AWARDED ANNUALLY

THE GOALS OF OUR EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ *Training experts in human activity to meet the needs of society and the labour market*
- ▶ *Providing the most diverse teacher training in Finland*
- ▶ *Developing new, flexible study paths*
- ▶ *Strengthening our pedagogical expertise*
- ▶ *Creating inspiring learning environments that support learning*
- ▶ *Developing teachers and schools of the future*



Multidisciplinary and increasingly international doctoral degree education of high standard

3 DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

- ▶ *Doctoral Programme in Social and Cultural Encounters*
- ▶ *Doctoral Programme in Educational Studies*
- ▶ *Doctoral Programme in Welfare, Health and Management*

Finnish Language & Cultural Research

Foreign Languages & Translation Studies

Special Education

Career Counselling

Psychology

Western Theology

Orthodox Theology

Applied Educational Science & Teacher Education

Education & Adult Education

We will engage in education and research partnerships with our most active and strategically important partners. We will expand our provision of education and research by exporting education, which will be developed in cooperation with Finland University (FinUni) and the participating universities. We will recruit talented and dedicated postgraduate students from our international Master's degree programmes. We will expand our teaching through the UEF Summer School.

In postgraduate education and marketing our postgraduate education, we will focus on cooperation with our strategic partners. We will target our recruitment efforts at talented research students and support them with high-quality supervision and by means of doctoral positions and grants. We will integrate our doctoral students more strongly with our research projects and research areas. We will offer post-doctoral positions, and potentially Tenure Track positions, to the most talented graduates.

We will promote the acquisition of international supplementary funding by reinforcing our research support services, by increasing cooperation between faculties, and by creating opportunities for researchers to dedicate time to applying for funding. Our most important research collaborations and funding applications will be implemented in cooperation with our strategic partners.

With regard to the allocation of resources within the faculty, we will gradually, during the period covered by the performance agreement, adopt a model that distributes funding on the basis of performance and taking account of the characteristics of each unit.

We will increase the social impact of education and research by means of various development initiatives both locally and internationally with the help of ESF and international EU projects, for example. We will make an active contribution to the development of our region in our research projects. We will strive to forecast the community's needs for continuing professional education and respond to them by providing specialisation studies, for example.

THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY ARE

- Strategic recruitment for our most important areas of research and education
- Diversifying and streamlining our recruitment system
- Providing a working environment that supports the well-being of our staff and inspires them
- Improving our staff's opportunities for research
- Strengthening our staff training and their professional development

We will make more efficient use of different recruitment channels and will also use international recruitment channels as well as direct recruitment. We will develop our Tenure Track recruitment procedures together with other faculties. We will strengthen our staff's know-how especially with regard to the use of information and communication technologies in order to promote diverse teaching techniques. We will also actively participate in the digitalisation of administrative processes. We will support our staff's international mobility.

THE GOALS OF OUR EDUCATION ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Training experts in human activity to meet the needs of society and the labour market
- Providing the most diverse teacher training in Finland
- Developing new, flexible study paths to meet the needs of students and the changing labour market
- Strengthening our pedagogical expertise
- Creating inspiring learning environments that support learning
- Developing teachers and schools of the future

We recognise the strong interaction between research and education. We will develop our pedagogical expertise by creating inspiring learning environments that are based on students' needs. We will create flexible study paths that cross the boundaries between faculties and combine humanist, theological, and psychological expertise with legal or economics expertise, for example.

We will provide the most diverse teacher training programme in Finland, which will be complemented by a wide range of minor subjects in different branches of science. Moving our faculty to the Joensuu Campus will involve developing physical learning environments and diverse forms of studying that enable studying regardless of time and place as well as a diverse and inspiring teacher training environment in Finland's newest teacher training school. We will deepen cooperation between teacher training partners and strengthen the research, experiment, and development activities of teacher training schools together with academic departments.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF OUR POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION ARE

- Ensuring the quality and continuity of the faculty's research activities
- Multidisciplinary and increasingly international doctoral degree education of high standard

Doctoral degree education at the University of Eastern Finland is based on doctoral degree programmes. Our faculty has three multidisciplinary doctoral degree programmes: the Doctoral Programme in Social and Cultural Encounters, the Doctoral Programme in Educational Studies, and the Doctoral Programme in Welfare, Health and Management.

SMART SCIENCE BY *SMART* PEOPLE.



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