

Strategic milestones

for the Faculty of
Natural Sciences



The overall Aarhus University strategy sets the framework for the Faculty of Natural Sciences, including many of the initiatives to be initiated. In the following, we describe specific strategic focus areas for the Faculty.

The overall vision for the Faculty of Natural Sciences is:

The Faculty of Natural Sciences wants to establish the best environment for excellence within research and education to develop new insights, new technologies and new graduates and thereby help solve the challenges facing society.

The strategy is will to ensure that staff and students can generate new knowledge and solutions. This is by educating graduates with strong competencies within natural science. The new knowledge and insight contributed by the Faculty's research is of great value in itself. The Faculty safeguards freedom of research and supports research contributing to the green transition, digital transformation, combatting infectious diseases and other societal challenges.

The strategy for the Faculty of Natural Sciences has a five-year aim in line with the overall university strategy, keeping in mind that we still need long-term goals and since many initiatives require a long time to define and implement.

The faculty has prioritised four focus areas: collaboration and management, career development, recruitment, and internationalisation. The strategy is an expression of the Faculty's priorities and it supplements the initiatives launched further to the overall Aarhus University strategy.

COLLABORATION AND MANAGEMENT

The right framework conditions and incentives are prerequisites for high-quality education and research, interdisciplinary collaboration and collaboration with companies. Therefore, we will:

- Strengthen the internal collaboration (at Natural Sciences and with other faculties) within education and research based on strong core disciplines
- Promote interdisciplinary collaboration – through developing existing interdisciplinary initiatives, supporting new, bottom-up initiatives, and by establishing new, externally financed, strategic centers
- Develop an overall vision for education at the Faculty
- Intensify collaboration between the Faculty (staff/students), public institutions, NGOs and companies
- Enhance the work environment and continue to develop attractive physical facilities for students and staff, including developing the research infrastructure strategically
- Be a visible and attractive faculty with a clear profile, both nationally and internationally
- Make the Faculty's administrative support even more coherent and user-driven, so that all staff can work together to develop the core tasks.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Targeted career development for students and staff at all levels is a prerequisite for achieving our goals. Therefore, we will:

- Make career steps and requirements clear and transparent for students and staff, with clear and well-known opportunities for progression and development
- Be recognised as a place at which the research leaders of tomorrow can commence and develop their careers
- Enhance diversity, including achieve a significantly better gender balance in recruitment processes and thereby within the staff
- Ensure that all students and researchers employed in temporary positions know about their career opportunities, including in the private and public sectors and in academia.

RECRUITMENT

Targeted recruitment of staff is a prerequisite for ensuring high quality and diversity in the Faculty's educational and research environments. Therefore, we will ensure that:

- We are internationally competitive, so that we are able to attract the best-qualified individuals
- Recruitment processes support diversity and recruitment of the best-qualified individuals
- A research career at the Faculty is recognised as an attractive career path both within and outside the Faculty
- Profile Aarhus city, our campus, and the Danish welfare system, including a good work-life balance, actively and as an integral element in recruitment of staff and students.

Nat will strengthen student recruitment by:

- Stimulating curiosity and interest in natural science among children and young people
- Increasing the number of qualified applicants per student place
- Improving students' enrolment to the Faculty's degree programmes and increasing retention and completion rates of students throughout their studies.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Nat will enhance internationalisation within research and education by:

- Enhancing the visibility of the Faculty's scientific research environment internationally
- Developing an inclusive and international environment for employees
- Increasing the internationalisation of degree programmes to educate more natural science graduates for society and to forge a more international study environment.

Pioneering spirit,
collaboration and ambition
forge strong basic research
in Natural Science

Faculty of Natural Sciences
Aarhus University
Ny Munkegade 120
DK-8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Tel.: +45 8715 0000
E-mail: nat@au.dk
nat.au.dk/en