



UNIVERSITY OF
THE FAROE ISLANDS

Strategic Plan 2030

Introduction

The current Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has underpinned the strategic work at the University for nearly four years, with significant progress made in several prioritized areas. With this, the strategic plan has been revised and updated for the period 2025-2030.

As the country's only university, the University of the Faroe Islands plays a unique and important role in Faroese society. The University stands on solid ground with support from all political parties in the country. It is crucial for ensuring a well-educated workforce, and has, since its establishment, acted as a cornerstone for the development of the Faroese language.

The international competition for students is intensifying, and the Faroe Islands must maintain their appeal, both for Faroese youth who wish to pursue education and enhance their employment opportunities, and for foreigners who might consider a future in the Faroe Islands. According to Statistics Faroe Islands, about 40 percent of each generation leaves the Faroe Islands at a young age. Only half of them return home as they get older, meaning that every fifth person in each generation no longer lives in the Faroe Islands. Therefore, the main challenge for the University of the Faroe Islands in the coming years is two-fold:

To meet the urgent needs for research and higher education in the Faroe Islands *and* become an integrated part of the global academic community.

A strong University of the Faroe Islands can improve the retention rate of young Faroese people within the country. The University can also increase the workforce and research in knowledge-intensive areas, which are crucial for growth and progress in Faroese society and for nation-building. Therefore, the University urgently needs to create a sustainable foundation for continued growth and development – in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, and building on current research and educational activities at the University.

The updated Strategic Plan first describes the foundation and mission of the University of the Faroe Islands, i.e., the main task of the University, from both a Faroese and an international perspective. Then, the strategic pillars of the Strategic Plan are described; these pillars represent the new areas that the University particularly wants to develop in the coming years. Finally, the specific strategic goals of the Strategic Plan are detailed.

Foundation and Mission

The University of the Faroe Islands is, first and foremost, a university – a tertiary-level educational institution that offers research-based education at an international level. International standards and core values are well established in the academic world and in the Magna Charta Universitatum, which the University of the Faroe Islands signed in 2021. Herein, it is affirmed that a university should have intellectual and moral autonomy; it should be an independent voice in public debate, while simultaneously having the duty to participate in societal and economic development. As a place of study and work, the university should be a space of diversity, tolerance, inclusion, equality, and mutual respect.

The University of the Faroe Islands is also a Faroese university and the only Faroese university. In this lies a special obligation to contribute to the development of the Faroese language and culture.



The foundation for a Faroese university is set out below:

The Faroese Language and Nation Building

The University of the Faroe Islands has a special obligation to carry out and promote high-level research in Faroese language and culture, and to provide research-based education in Faroese language and culture. In general, the University is responsible for preserving and developing the Faroese language and culture in Faroese society – from education and administration to media and new technology.

Membership in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

The Bologna Process has unified European countries and universities within a common educational framework over the last 25 years, known as the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Its purpose is to develop more comparable, competitive, and comprehensible higher education systems in Europe. The Faroe Islands – and thereby the University of the Faroe Islands – must have membership in the EHEA and Erasmus+ to ensure flexible international mobility for students, educators and researchers.

Research-based Education

By being an attractive workplace for talented researchers, the University of the Faroe Islands will provide impactful and high-quality research that supports learning and teaching. Research-based education is a hallmark of any internationally recognized university. Research initiatives should support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Student-Centred Learning and State-of-the-art Campus

The University should offer a learning environment that supports student-centred learning and all aspects of student life. To succeed both domestically and internationally, it is fundamental that the University remains a good and inspiring place to study and work. A state-of-the-art campus is essential for supporting learning activities and academic/social integration, as well as attracting future students, educators, researchers, and collaborators. Sufficient and accessible student housing is also a critical necessity.

Modern and Professional Institution

The University of the Faroe Islands should be well-organized, adequately funded, have competent administrative staff, and modern digital tools (e.g., artificial intelligence) that support management and operations. Professional leadership, an inclusive work-culture and attention to well-being, forms the basis for a high-performing University.



The mission of the University of the Faroe Islands is:

To provide high-quality and research-based higher education at an international level that meets the need of the Faroese society.

To carry out high-quality research that is especially relevant for Faroese society, but also for the global academic community.

To participate in public debate and collaborate with public and private institutions on education, research, and development initiatives that are important for Faroese society.

Strategic pillars

With a strong foundation, the University of the Faroe Islands can develop new initiatives that are of great importance to Faroese society. These new initiatives are structured around three strategic pillars, which can be viewed as guiding stars for the future development of the University.



STRATEGIC PILLAR I: Develop research and higher education that is relevant for major sectors in the Faroe Islands

The University of the Faroe Islands has a duty to meet the urgent need for knowledge in Faroese society. Some of the major challenges ahead include climate change and the development of sustainable solutions, the appropriate use of technology (e.g., artificial intelligence), and security issues (e.g., cybersecurity).

Technology plays an increasingly important role in the fishing and aquaculture industries, which require advanced skills in engineering. Additionally, it is believed that there are significant

opportunities for the fishing and aquaculture industries to derive more value from the biological resources from the sea and to further develop the food value chain. More development requires interdisciplinary collaboration, relevant research and higher education in food science, biology, biotechnology, engineering, and business. Other key industries that have a specific need for relevant research include the construction industry, tourism, green energy, and transportation.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the University of the Faroe Islands aims to seek funding to develop research capabilities in relevant academic areas and to develop research-based courses.

STRATEGIC PILLAR II: Offer education to new target groups and strengthen the international dimension

Today, virtually all students at the University of the Faroe Islands are Faroese (or foreigners residing in the Faroe Islands), and most of the teaching is conducted in Faroese. Many Faroese between the ages of 18 and 22 still migrate abroad to receive their university education. This pertains to programs in high demand, where the University of the Faroe Islands offers limited or no programs, such as business studies, engineering, and medicine. This also applies to programs where many already attend the University of the Faroe Islands, like social education and nursing.

The University of the Faroe Islands aims to expand and diversify the student body by offering relevant education and an attractive learning environment to new target groups – and by providing programs that also would draw in international students.

STRATEGIC PILLAR III: Develop new types of education programs and new modes of delivery

The average age of students at the University is relatively high, and a significant portion of the student body has family obligations (children under 18, mortgages, etc.). As a result, most need to work during their study period to secure the necessary income, even though they are enrolled as full-time students and are expected to devote the majority of their time to their studies. For some, this is a challenge that can lead to dropout.

The University of the Faroe Islands aims to offer students greater flexibility and more educational offerings that align with flexible learning paths and lifelong learning.

Strategic Goals

For the period 2025-2030, the University of the Faroe Islands sets these strategic goals:

1. All programs at the University of the Faroe Islands are quality assured in accordance with the Bologna Process

The Faroe Islands should obtain membership in the EHEA and Erasmus+ as soon as possible. This will ensure flexible international mobility for students, educators and researchers at the University. In this context, all programs at the University of the Faroe Islands must be quality assured and enhanced with policies and procedures that are in accordance with the Bologna Process.

2. All programs at the University of the Faroe Islands are well-founded in research

Most programs at the University of the Faroe Islands are well-founded in research, but due to academic traditions, there is still a need for the University to develop research in some areas,



such as nursing, teacher education, and social education. The University should create its own definition of what research-based education means and set specific goals for the development of research in individual areas of study.

3. Higher education and research in Faroese language and literature are sustainable, and the Centre for Language Technology is a solid and active platform for Faroese language technology

The University aims to develop the Faroese program by offering a diverse range of courses that meet the challenges of Faroese society and ensure a steady and significant number of applications for the program. Research in Faroese, with projects that extend into other research environments both domestically and internationally, will be strengthened. Collaborations will be developed that can enhance the foundation of the Centre for Language Technology and establish projects and language technology solutions in an increasingly international and multilingual Faroese context.



4. Knowledge centres are established in areas important for major sectors in the Faroe Islands

Several important major sectors in the Faroe Islands require relevant research and higher education - with an emphasis on sustainable development of Faroese society. A knowledge centre is a collaboration on research, development, and innovation between internal and external stakeholders within areas that are of particular importance to major sectors in the Faroe Islands.



The University plans to establish a knowledge centre in food science and biotechnology, and a knowledge centre in social education and school research. Additionally, the University intends to develop knowledge centres relevant to the construction industry, tourism, green energy, and transportation. Research collaboration with the Faroese health care system should be developed and intensified.

5. The University of the Faroe Islands offers new or updated programs to Faroese youth

The University aims to build bridges to upper secondary schools and to Hægri Nám at Glasir (further education programmes), so that more young Faroese, who otherwise might have gone abroad, will seek higher education in the Faroe Islands. The programs at the University in engineering and business/economics will be updated and developed. Also, the University will strive to offer new programs in food science and health sciences. Access to student housing is pivotal for both domestic and international students.

6. International activities at the University of the Faroe Islands have increased

The University aims to increase the mobility of students to and from the Faroe Islands – especially students who go abroad or come to the Faroe Islands for a semester. Relevant courses should be offered in English. A prerequisite for the University to develop international activities is that the Faroe Islands become a member of Erasmus+, and that international students have access to student housing and receive support from an international office at the University.

7. More offers for lifelong learning and greater flexibility for those who need it

The University should be flexible for students who truly need it, but in an organized and well-founded manner based on the principles of lifelong learning, flexible and inclusive learning paths. The University should increasingly offer individual courses, which can be the first step towards earning a degree. This could be organized as a centre for lifelong learning, for example, under the title “Opið Setur”, offering both on-site teaching and digital distance educations. All master’s programs should be offered both as full-time and part-time studies. Certain bachelor’s degree programs are to be offered as both full-time and part-time studies, e.g., in social education. Opportunities for offering courses across educational programmes – and relevant international collaboration – should be fostered.

8. The University of the Faroe Islands has a new main campus building, and the development of the campus continues

The main campus building for the University is expected to be ready in 2028. The renovation of Frælsið 20 is well underway and followed by the next phases of the campus plan. It is important that the University offers students and staff attractive conditions for academic activities with

competitive campus facilities and amenities, suitable student housing, childcare, study support, and guidance. The new campus should be state-of-the-art with respect to sustainability, both in relation to construction and subsequent operations; relevant research projects should be established that are linked to the campus development.

9. The University of the Faroe Islands has a strong and professional administration that can support strategic initiatives

When it comes to research and teaching, it is crucial that the necessary administrative and technical support is available, and that the University does not embark on new initiatives without the necessary funding for it. The University of the Faroe Islands has worked deliberately towards developing the administration: For example, the Quality Unit and the Research and Enterprise Unit have been established, and student administration has been centralized to ensure uniformity of service. However, it is necessary to continuously ensure that the administration is prioritized so that it can provide the services that students and staff need. The IT-infrastructure at the University should be developed so that it fully supports research, teaching and administration.

10. The University of the Faroe Islands has a good reputation and can attract qualified staff

A prerequisite for the continued development of the University is that we can attract and retain the best staff (both Faroese and foreigners). It is important that we focus on making the University a rewarding workplace where well-being, equity, and other working conditions are of the highest standard. We must work systematically with the branding of the University, so we are seen as an attractive place to work and study.





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