

Appendix A: Terms of References (ToR)

The board of the Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT the Arctic University of Norway mandates the evaluation committee appointed by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) to assess the Department of Health and Care Sciences based on the following Terms of Reference.

Assessment

You are asked to assess the organisation, quality and diversity of research conducted by the Department of Health and Care Sciences as well as its relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes, and to society at large. You should do so by judging the unit's performance based on the following five assessment criteria (a. to e.). Be sure to take current international trends and developments in science and society into account in your analysis.

- a) Strategy, resources and organisation
- b) Research production, quality and integrity
- c) Diversity and equality
- d) Relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes
- e) Relevance to society

For a description of these criteria, see Chapter 2 of the life sciences evaluation protocol. Please provide a written assessment for each of the five criteria. Please also provide recommendations for improvement. We ask you to pay special attention to the following two aspects in your assessment:

1. **Education research and applied research of relevance for the health services**

To address the major challenge of demographic changes and increased need for health and care services in contemporary and future society, a continuous focus on education research and applied research to improve and make the organising and practice in the field of health and care services more sustainable are of vital importance. Over the last 10 years the department of Health and Care sciences has established and currently host 7 research groups covering a broad range of topics such as education research, health service research, acute and long-term care, aging, population health and others. We kindly ask the committee to evaluate the width, depth and societal relevance of our applied research with a special focus on its relevance to the education programmes and ability to address future societal needs for sustainable professional health and care services. We welcome suggestions for future investment areas and research organisation models that preserve the integration of research and education and at the same time strengthen our research capacity.

2. **Collaboration, interdisciplinarity, co-creation**

UiT's strategy to meet major societal challenges includes promoting interdisciplinarity, co-creation and innovation. Further, the strategy underlines the aim to push for cooperation in the Arctic and High North. Only by drawing on the expertise and relative strengths of diverse disciplines and geographically anchored

research will we be able to make a meaningful contribution to solving global challenges locally. The Department of Health and Care Sciences has around 1,200 students and 140 full-time equivalents at 8 different campuses across the North region in Norway. Located within a region of mostly rural settlements, our health science research activity centres around topics relevant for the Arctic and High North. In line with the overall UiT strategy, we aim to be a preferred, visible, and active part of the knowledge development in health sciences in the High North, and an active and visible partner for civil society and for national and international health science researchers within our fields of interest. We kindly ask the committee to evaluate our research-, health institutional- and civil society networks and the inclusion of these in our research, and we welcome suggestions for improvements in organisation and inclusion strategies to increase our outreach and success in national and international competitive funding schemes for research and innovation.

In addition, we would like your report to provide a qualitative assessment of the Department of Health and Care Sciences as a whole in relation to its strategic targets. The committee assesses the strategy that the administrative unit intends to pursue in the years ahead and the extent to which it will be capable of meeting its targets for research and society during this period based on available resources and competence. The committee is also invited to make recommendations concerning these two subjects.

Documentation

The necessary documentation will be made available by the life sciences secretariat at Technopolis Group.

The documents will include the following:

- a report on research personnel and publications within life sciences commissioned by RCN
- a self-assessment based on a template provided by the life sciences secretariat

Interviews with representatives from the evaluated units

Interviews with the Department of Health and Care Sciences will be organised by the evaluation secretariat. Such interviews can be organised as a site visit, in another specified location in Norway or as a video conference.

Statement on impartiality and confidence

The assessment should be carried out in accordance with the *Regulations on Impartiality and Confidence in the Research Council of Norway*. A statement on the impartiality of the committee members has been recorded by the RCN as a part of the appointment process. The impartiality and confidence of committee and panel members should be confirmed when evaluation data from the Department of Health and Care Sciences are made available to the committee and the panels, and before any assessments are made based on these data. The RCN should be notified if questions concerning impartiality and confidence are raised by committee members during the evaluation process.

Assessment report

We ask you to report your findings in an assessment report drawn up in accordance with a format specified by the life sciences secretariat. The committee may suggest adjustments to this format at its first meeting. A draft report should be sent to the Department of Health and Care Sciences and RCN. The Department of Health and Care Sciences should be allowed to check the report for factual inaccuracies; if such inaccuracies are found, they should be reported to the life sciences secretariat within the deadline given by the secretariat. After the committee has made the amendments judged necessary, a corrected version of the assessment report should be sent to the board of The faculty of Health Sciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the RCN after all feedback on inaccuracies has been received from the Department of Health and Care Sciences.