

UiT2030

UiT The Arctic University of Norway is a modern, broad, high-tech university with an excellent international ranking located in Northern Norway. Part of our strategy is to strengthen regional, national and international knowledge-based development in cooperation with society and the business community. Our campus is strategically located at the hub of the northern provinces in Norway. Our faculties offer an academic breadth and interdisciplinary advantages as we meet the challenges of the future, together.

Our social mission is to provide high-quality research-based higher education and conduct research, and offer artistic development work at the highest international levels. We contribute to innovation, disseminating knowledge about our faculties and disciplines as we participate in the public discourse. We contribute environmentally, socially and economically to sustainable development.

Academic freedom and scientific and ethical principles form the basis for all activities at UiT. Our researchers and students are permitted access to all disciplines, to examine these areas freely and express their professional views. Our students and staff have the opportunity to develop their talent, abilities and potential. Participation, transparency, good processes and University Democracy shall provide the basis for the wise decisions we make and the forward-looking priorities we set.

Our social mission unites UiT through a diversity of cultures and peoples living along an extensive yet narrow landmass, with several different fields of study and research fields. Our social mission also requires good cooperation across sectors and national borders. Based on scientific integrity, we need to remain brave, committed and generous as we explore our disciplines in touch with people, institutions and contemporary developments.

We strengthen the quality and impact of our disciplines and core tasks continuously through three strategic priority areas.

The Arctic and the northern provinces

UiT is the world's northernmost university, strategically placed to develop and disseminate knowledge about the Arctic. The region is under heavy influence by climate change and other global trends. UiT embraces research and education on nature, society, technology, the natural environment, culture and humanity, and in the interaction between these. Our unique location and surroundings inspire us in our scientific and creative work with oceans, climate change and resource utilisation, health and the economy, indigenous peoples, law, demographics, politics and interaction in the north.

Ambition: UiT aims to be an international leader in knowledge and expertise in the Arctic and the far north.

We aim for high quality in education, research and artistic development and take special responsibility for Arctic and Sami social conditions and perspectives. We will be at the forefront of analysing and developing an understanding of nature and societal changes and their effects. We will translate challenges and opportunities in the north into professional issues that can be explored via cooperation and result in viable solutions.

To achieve our ambitions, UiT shall:

- Ask unresolved research questions relevant to the north, at the forefront of international knowledge development
- Further develop flexible and relevant educational programmes suited to the competence needs and the people of the north
- Strengthen our position as a leading university within knowledge and competence on Sami and Kven issues
- Take the lead in developing Arctic collaborations and cooperations and be the preferred partner for business and public authorities
- Develop research, innovation and education instruments for sustainability in the Arctic

The biggest societal challenges

Major societal challenges are characterised by dilemmas and difficult choices, but also new opportunities. The role of universities is to provide knowledge on the societal challenges we face, and search for evidence-based solutions to these. This requires solid basic research that contributes to global knowledge production.

Societal challenges are also challenging the methods and approaches used by knowledge-based communities, and our ability to contribute to comprehensive decision-making and new solutions. UiT will lead the way in innovative knowledge production and co-creating innovation processes. Education, research and dissemination need to address major and complex changes through innovative knowledge development, and we need the expertise to channel and utilise the forces of change and to help restructure our future.

Ambition: UiT aims to be innovative in global knowledge work that addresses complex societal challenges

We will share our knowledge and research, and make these available through education. Open data, publications and learning resources will facilitate innovation and co-creation internally and in society as a whole. Students and employees at UiT will be characterised by the ability to ask critical questions, get a head start on ideas, and dare to challenge established practices to contribute to democratic, sustainable and forward-looking solutions.

To achieve our ambitions, UiT shall:

- Promote open science and develop the field in close cooperation with national and international partners
- Develop new research methods, student-active learning methods and educational programmes that enable us to more readily meet complex societal challenges
- Promote groundbreaking research, innovation and co-creation across disciplines and sectors in close collaboration with working and social life
- Emphasise the development of digital competence and generic skills to promote change and restructuring competence among students, employees, the organization and society

Talent development and diversity

Our social mission requires teamwork to achieve our ambitious goals. Different perspectives and experiences enrich and challenge us. If managed well, diversity is an advantage in creative and co-creating work, and in building an academic environment of the highest quality. Space for free speech on our campuses should be large, with room for free exchange of opinion.

UiT houses a multitude of disciplines, campuses, individuals and achievements. We are an international university. Our students and staff come from different countries and communities and bring with them a multitude of experiences, perspectives and professional insight. Students and staff are our most important resources; developing everyone's potential is a prerequisite for the success of our social mission.

Ambition: UiT aims to develop everyone's talent and exploit diversity as a driving force

We will be an attractive and inclusive working and learning environment, where there is room to try, fail and succeed. We emphasise community, commitment and collaboration among students, employees and other operators in society. We will be a Unified University where the contributions and responsibilities of everyone count.

To achieve our ambitions, UiT shall:

- Set up policy instruments and tools to develop and attract talent and to build a leading academic environment for Norway and internationally
- Reinforce the roles of management and employees through systematic skill and career development work
- Prioritise and facilitate knowledge development and innovative dissemination that promotes diversity in representation, perspective and competence
- Strengthen our participation in dialogue and public debate, and facilitate academic freedom of expression
- Further develop UiT as a unified institution with a digitally-aligned and stimulating physical and social work and study environment, at campuses and learning facilities that have distinctive character