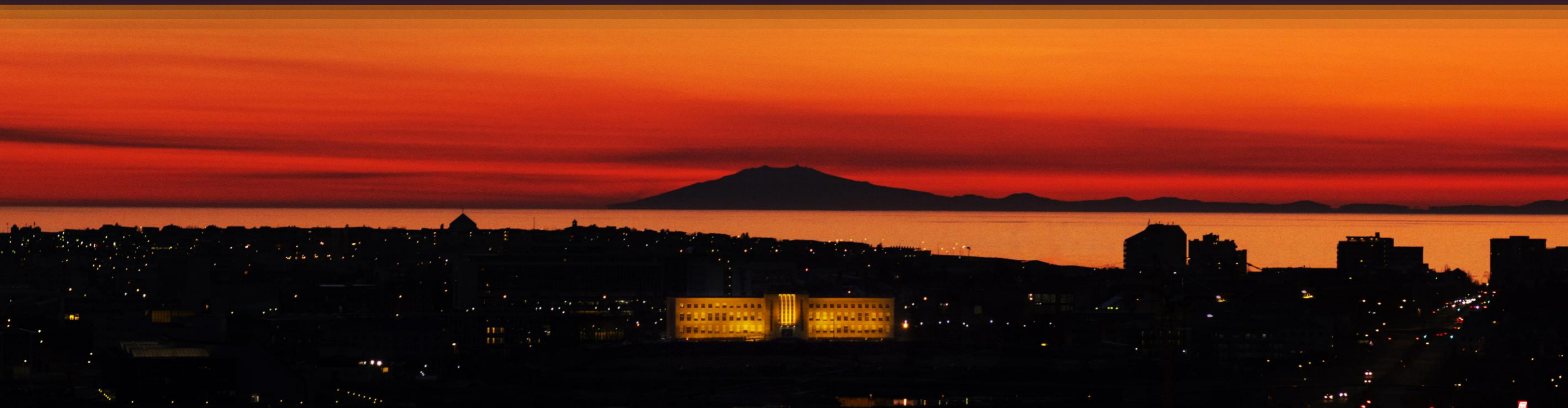




University of Iceland's IWR University Showcase

Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector
3 May 2021





MAIN TOPICS

1. Facts and figures and current issues
2. Enhancement through the implementation of the UI Strategy 2016-2021
3. Looking ahead – UI Strategy 2021-2026
4. Discussion



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

1. FACTS AND FIGURES AND CURRENT ISSUES



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



STUDENTS



UNDER-GRADUATES

9,376

MASTER'S STUDENTS

5,691

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

599

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1,550

STUDENT SATISFACTION

83%

EMPLOYMENT RATE AFTER GRADUATION

83%

AVERAGE GRADUATE SALARY (ISK)

680,000

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS

15,666



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

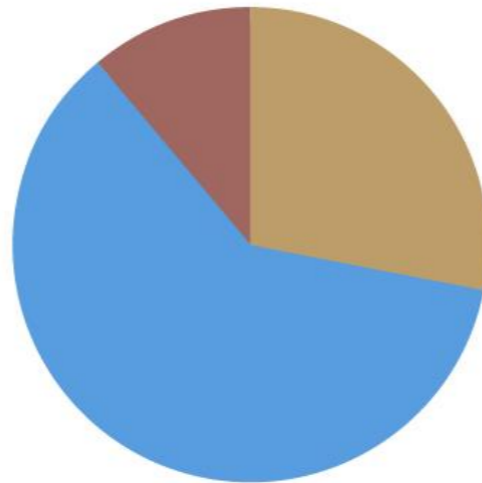


STAFF



TEACHING AND
RESEARCH
1,300

SESSIONAL
LECTURERS
2,800



PROFESSIONAL
STAFF
500

INTERNATIONAL
STAFF
430

PROPORTION OF
ACADEMIC STAFF
WITH A PHD
80%



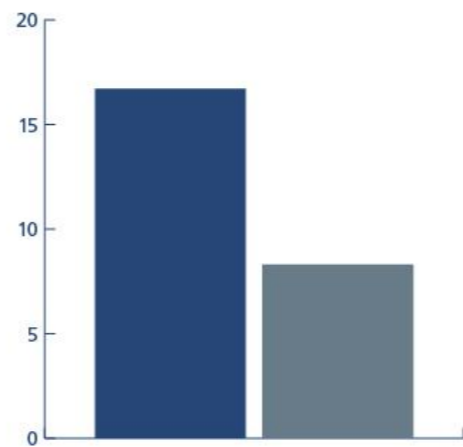
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

PUBLIC FUNDING AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INCOME 2020



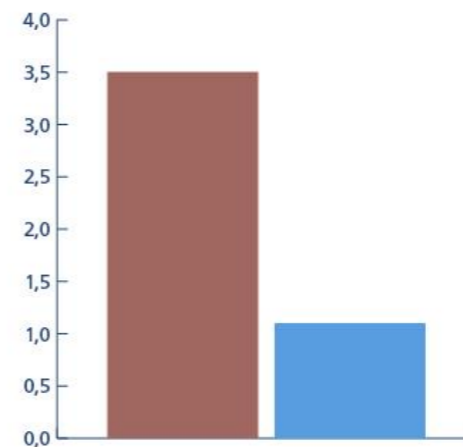
PUBLIC FUNDING
16.7 BIL ISK

NON-GOVERNMENTAL INCOME
8.3 BIL ISK



DOMESTIC GRANTS
3.5 BIL ISK

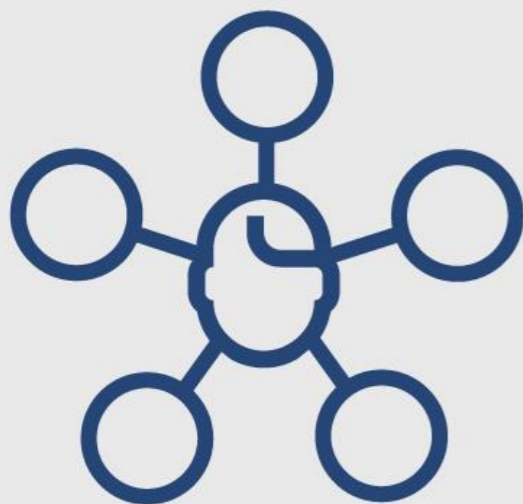
INTERNATIONAL GRANTS
1.1 BIL ISK





UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

DIVERSITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT



NUMBER OF SCHOOLS:

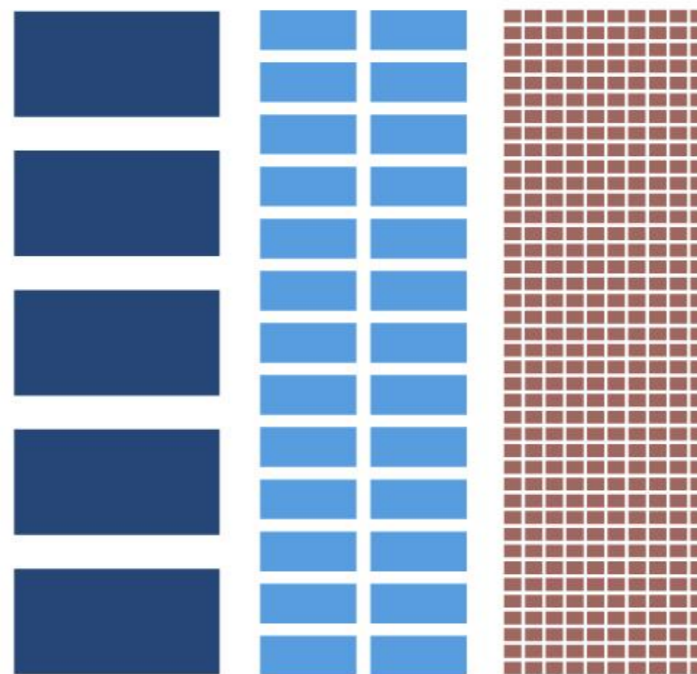
5

NUMBER OF FACULTIES:

26

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES:

400





UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

CLOSE LINKS WITH THE PUBLIC



32,000

VISITS TO THE UI
SCIENCE CENTRE SINCE 2012

6,000 PEOPLE
ACCESSED LIFELONG LEARNING
AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY IN 2019

7,000 STUDENTS
AGED 12-16 HAVE ATTENDED
THE UNIVERSITY OF YOUTH
SINCE 2004

1.1
MILLION PEOPLE USED THE
WEB OF SCIENCE IN 2020



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY



AROUND **900** OPEN LECTURES,
SYMPOSIUMS AND CONFERENCES
ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IN 2019



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



PUBLIC TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND IS **4TH**
IN A LIST OF MOST TRUSTED
ICELANDIC INSTITUTIONS (77%)*

*GALLUP



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

A CONTINUALLY EVOLVING CAMPUS



32
UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS
ACROSS AN AREA OF
100,000 M²

CREATION OF AN
ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR THE CAMPUS

EMPHASIS ON:

- SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
- HEALTH
- GREEN SPACES

BSÍ



- The City Line BRT system is the biggest public transport plan ever to be implemented in Iceland
- Strong links with UI – three stops planned on the University campus
- Alongside this initiative, the University Council Planning Committee is shaping a new organisational framework for the campus



A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



NEW LANDSPÍTALI UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING



ICELANDIC BUILDING



STUDENT HOUSING

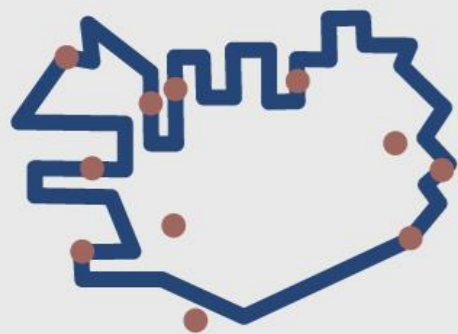


SAGA HOTEL



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

A UNIVERSITY FOR THE NATION



10 REGIONAL RESEARCH
CENTRES ACROSS ICELAND

40 STAFF EMPLOYED AT
REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

RESEARCH

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT



JUST UNDER

1,250

PEER-REVIEWED
PAPERS PUBLISHED
IN 2020*

*SCOPUS

76%

OF PEER-REVIEWED
PAPERS PRODUCED
WITH
INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERS

64,000

CITATIONS OF
PAPERS BY UI
RESEARCHERS
IN 2020*

*SCOPUS



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY



7 PATENTABLE
INVENTIONS BASED
ON RESEARCH AT UI
OVER THE
LAST 5 YEARS

150 EMPLOYEES
SIT ON CORPORATE
BOARDS AND
PUBLIC COUNCILS

THE UNIVERSITY
SPONSORS THREE
ACCELERATORS

- AWE ACCELERATOR FOR WOMEN
- THE GOLDEN EGG
- SNJALLRÆÐI

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ICELAND WORKS
WITH MANY OF THE
LEADING KNOWLEDGE-
BASED COMPANIES
IN ICELAND

THE UNIVERSITY
OWNS SHARES IN **20**
START-UP COMPANIES



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

FLOURISHING SCIENCE PARK



3 INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES
– ALVOTECH
– CCP
– DECODE

1,100 PEOPLE
WORKING AT COMPANIES
IN THE UI SCIENCE PARK

**OUTSTANDING NEW FACILITIES
FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND
START-UP COMPANIES IN THE
GRÓSKA BUSINESS GROWTH
CENTRE**

GRÓSKA IS ALSO HOME TO:

- ICELANDIC STARTUPS
- ICELAND TOURISM CLUSTER
- ICELAND DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE
- THE FINTECH CLUSTER
- TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE ICELAND
- UI DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



GRÓSKA - NEW INNOVATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH CENTER



Genie GS-1930



GRÓSKA - NEW INNOVATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH CENTER



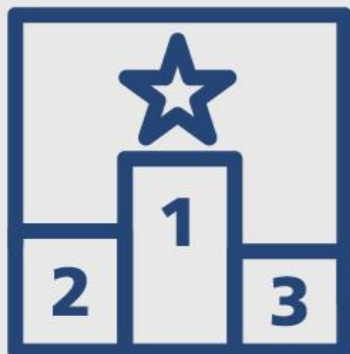
ALVOTECH - BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



OVERALL STRENGTH



RANKED AMONG THE BEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD BY RESPECTED PUBLICATIONS* FOR TEN YEARS RUNNING

THE ONLY ICELANDIC UNIVERSITY INCLUDED IN BOTH THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS RANKINGS, SHANGHAI AND THE

AMONG THE BEST 400 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT

***TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION**

NUMBER OF FIELDS INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS:

9

NUMBER OF FACULTIES INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS:

19



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



COLLABORATION WITH OVER

400 UNIVERSITIES

ALL OVER THE WORLD

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL

HORIZON 2020 GRANTS OVER

THE LAST FIVE YEARS: **44**

MOST ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS BASED ON RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS:

-  KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
-  HARVARD UNIVERSITY
-  UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
-  AARHUS UNIVERSITY
-  CNRS
-  NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
-  HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTES



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND


THE AURORA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK



A NETWORK OF NINE
EUROPEAN RESEARCH
UNIVERSITIES WHO HAVE
MADE A SIGNIFICANT
SOCIETAL IMPACT

AURORA WORKS TO ADVANCE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
UNIVERSITIES AND PROMOTE
STUDENT AND STAFF MOBILITY

-  VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM
-  UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
-  UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN
-  UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK
-  UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES – FEDERICO II
-  UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI
-  UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
-  UNIVERSITÉ GRENOBLE ALPES



“Education is essential to the vitality of European society and economy. The European Education Area aims to bring to the education and training communities the support they need to fulfil their fundamental mission, in challenging and exciting times”

– President von der Leyen



AURORA

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
ALLIANCE

AURORA ALLIANCE MEMBERS:

1  **UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND**
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

5  **UNIVERSITÄT
DUISBURG
ESSEN**
UNIVERSITY DUISBURG-ESSEN

9  **Palacký University
Olomouc**
PALACKY UNIVERSITY

2  **University of
East Anglia**
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

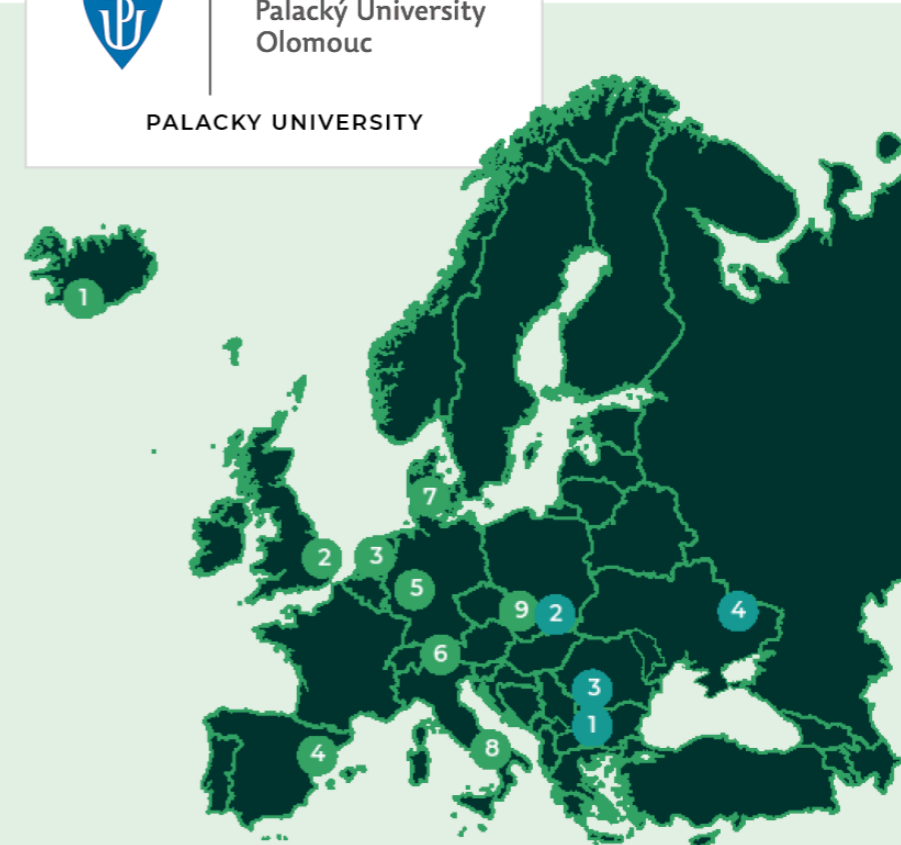
6  **universität
innsbruck**
UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK

3  **VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM**
VU AMSTERDAM

7  **CBS** **COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL**
HANDELSHØJSKOLEN
COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

4  **UNIVERSITAT
ROVIRA I VIRGILI**
UNIVERSITY ROVIRA I VIRGILI

8  **UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II**
UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS:

- 1 SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKY"
- 2 PAVOL JOZEF ŠAFÁRIK UNIVERSITY
- 3 UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA
- 4 KARAZIN UNIVERSITY

Our vision

- Strengthen our education, research and innovation missions to tackle **big societal challenges** and enhance our contributions to the **Sustainable Development Goals**
- Ensure our graduates have the **skills and mindset** needed to address societal challenges as **social entrepreneurs and innovators**
- **Break down traditional barriers** between disciplines and institutions to transform our universities into **open knowledge and innovation ecosystems**



Aurora gives students the opportunity to:

- **Expand their study options** with access to courses taught at other Aurora universities
- Find courses and training opportunities relating to **specific SDGs**
- Have a **meaningful international experience** as part of their studies
- Acquire the **transversal skills** they will need to thrive in fast changing society and labour market
- **Shape the future** of higher education

Aurora gives staff the opportunity to:

- Have **structured support** in integrating sustainability and social innovation into their teaching and research
- Learn new teaching methods, receive training and enhance their international cooperation network
- **Develop joint courses and programmes** with like-minded Aurora academics
- Access **research infrastructures and support services** of other Aurora universities
- Benefit from **new information technology** to support international cooperation
- **Shape the Aurora cooperation**

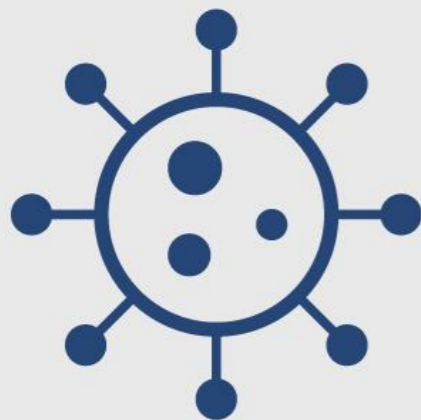




UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



COVID-19



THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND HAS INCREASED TO AROUND 16,000 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY ARE WORKING ON ROUGHLY **40** STUDIES RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT

SCHOLARS ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING THE PANDEMIC



ER ÞÖRF ÞEIM ER VÍÐA RATAR

- University of Iceland Emergency Response Board activated in February 2020
- An emergency response plan was created and followed
- It was successful in keeping the University operational, with priority on minimising the risk of infection
- Work on digitalising operations began around two years previously
- Active communication with staff and students at the University throughout





NEW TEACHING AND LEARNING TECHNIQUES



- Active engagement and social responsibility of UI scholars
- Developed, for example, a statistical prediction model for the spread of infection and course of the pandemic in Iceland
- A large number of ongoing research projects into the nature and impact of the pandemic, e.g., a large international study into the impact on people's mental wellbeing and quality of life



- Earth scientists at the University of Iceland play a key role in civil protection, educating the public and researching seismic and volcanic activity in Iceland



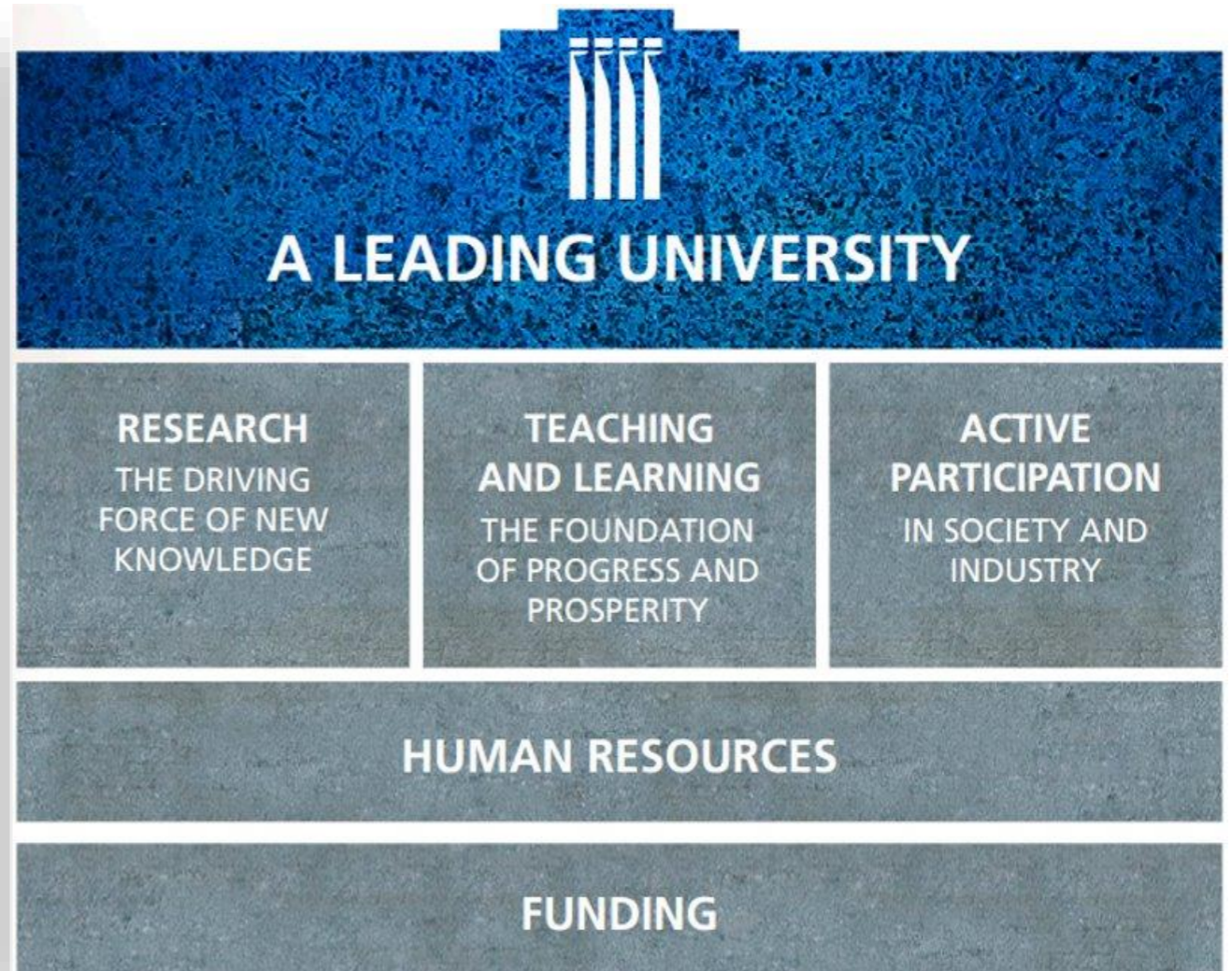
HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

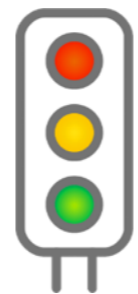
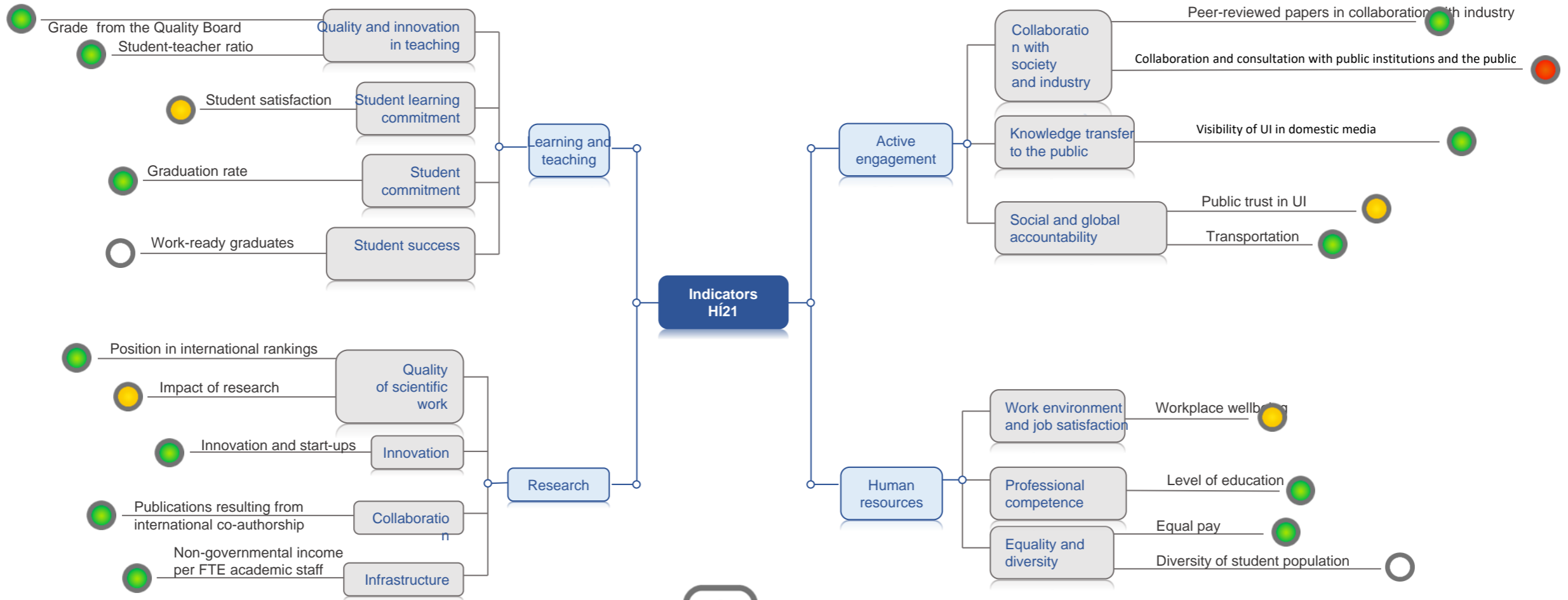
ENHANCEMENT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UI STRATEGY 2016-2021

UI's Strategy for 2016-2021 – UI21

Focus areas

- A progressive vision for teaching and learning that prepares students to participate in society and industry
- Strong research infrastructure that supports the creation of knowledge and international collaboration
- The University has a wide impact and addresses the challenges of the 21st century
- A great place to work
- Quality culture and efficient information technology
- Equality and diversity within the University community promoted





GREEN = Increase / strong position
YELLOW = Conflicting metrics / warning signs
RED = Decrease / weak position
WHITE = Data lacking or single measurement only





3/4 indicators green (one white)



12/20 measures green

Faculty measures received the least support

54% of staff feel UI21 had a significant impact on teaching

66% of academic staff: More pedagogical support

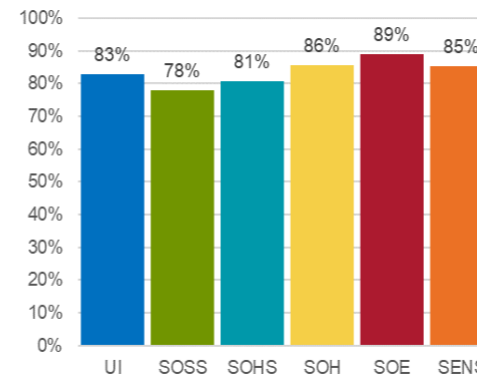
80% of academic staff: Increased digitalisation of teaching

86% of academic staff: No reduction in teaching workloads

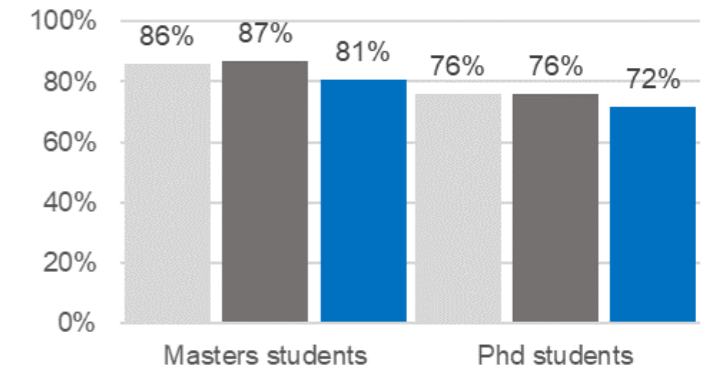
EXAMPLES OF REFORM PROJECTS

- Grants for larger faculty reform projects (B grants)
- Adoption of CANVAS and INSPIRA
- Doctoral grants – more and larger grants, travel grants, overhead funding
- 300 million ISK for development of Master's programmes over the past 3 years
- Programme selection wheel for prospective students
- Pedagogical development managers in schools
- More pedagogical development opportunities for teaching staff
- Total of 34 reform projects

Undergraduate students:
High and increased satisfaction in all schools over the past years



Master's and PhD students:
PhD students were the least satisfied and brought down satisfaction levels in both groups





4/5 indicators green



13/20 measures green

46% of staff feel that UI21 had a positive impact on research

68% of academic staff: Better pre-award services

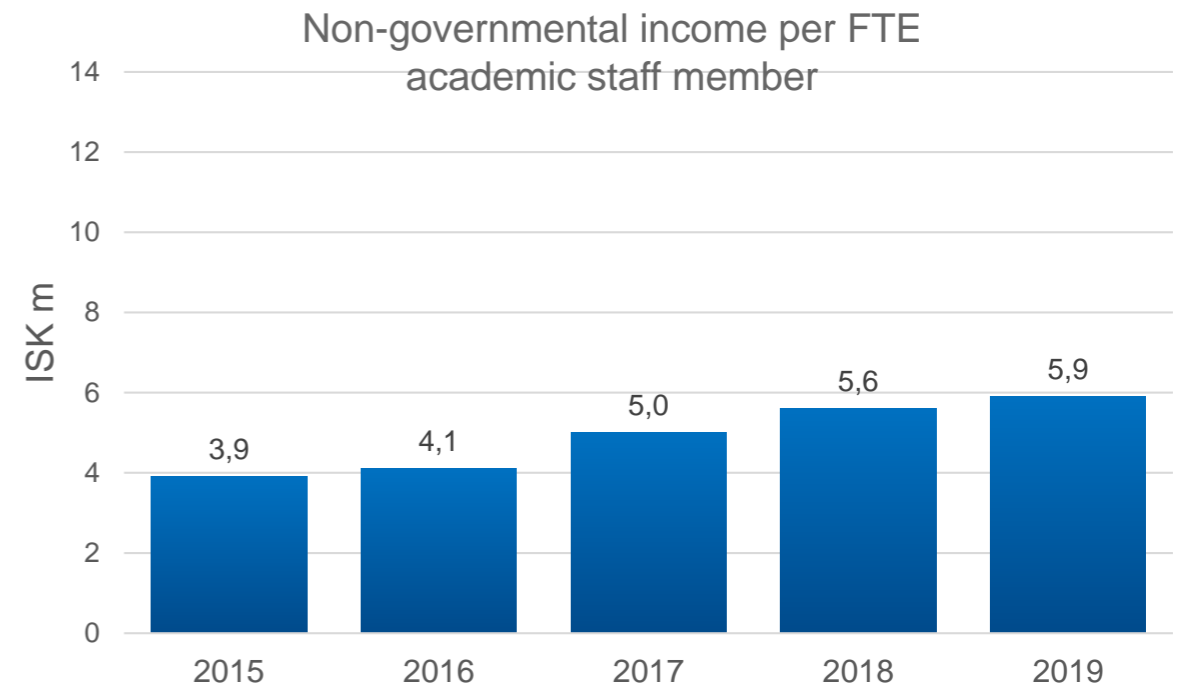
54% of academic staff: Better research infrastructure

Impact of research reduced over the last few years

- UI included in a number of international rankings, incl. the two most influential: THE and ARWU
- The number of subjects included in subject level rankings increases year on year

EXAMPLES OF REFORM PROJECTS

- Research infrastructure plan funded up to ISK 404 m
- Grants from UI Research Fund now 3 years
- Signing bonus and reduction in teaching duties for new academic staff
- SMES group for post-award services
- Advice from international experts on applications to the ERC
- Non-governmental income of academic staff significantly increased
- Total of 35 reform projects





3/5 indicators green



9/16 measures green

42% of staff feel UI21 had a positive impact on public engagement

54% of academic staff: Increased engagement with the public

42% of academic staff: Increased support for innovation and exploitation of knowledge

62% of academic staff: Contributions to society not evaluated

The number of people using sustainable transport is rising

Visibility in the media

↑ The number of news stories about UI increased

by 6% between 2017 and 2018

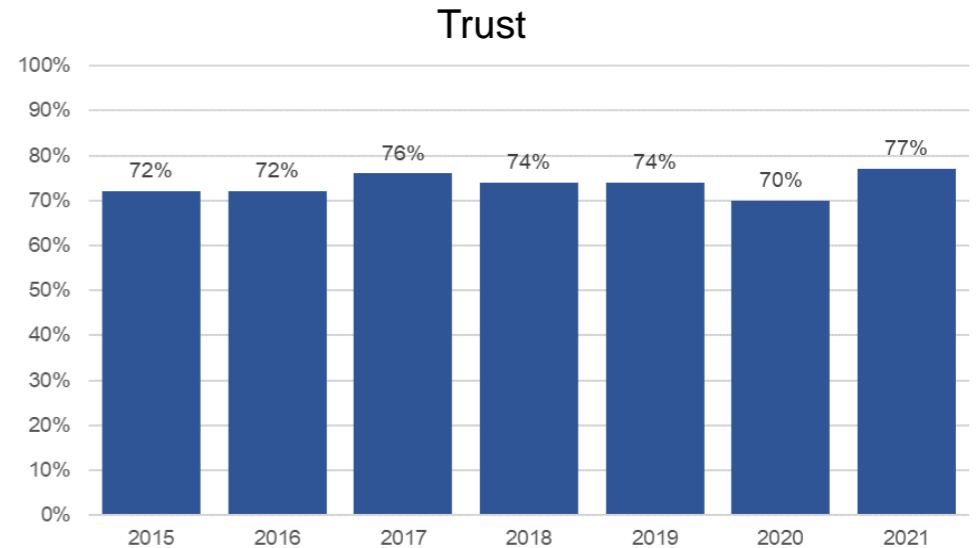
↓ by 3% between 2018 and 2019

↑ Broadcast and print media

Online media and specialised sites

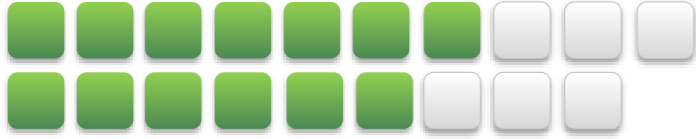
EXAMPLES OF REFORM PROJECTS

- Network Forum – job listings for students
- Increased online support for prospective students
- Web chat and study programme selection wheel
- Lecture series:
 - Best Choices for Our Children – UI and the SDGs
- Sprettur – support for students of foreign origin
- Support for public outreach by academic staff 2020
- Establishment of the Science Park
- Total of 24 reform projects





2/3 indicators green (one white)



13/19 measures green

38% of staff believe UI21 had a positive impact on human resources support

60% of staff feel that support for equality has increased

50% of staff feel administration has improved

48% of academic staff: Campus/transport do not support work

46% of academic staff usually or always experience stress

Significant gender gap in the student population

EXAMPLES OF REFORM PROJECTS

- Improved mental health services for students
- Equal pay certification >> ongoing project
- Increased opportunities for health promotion, e.g. improved gym and facilities for bicycles and cyclists
- Electric cars for staff
- Winter break science day for children of staff
- New manager training
- Total of 34 reform projects

Significant difference between responses from academic and administrative staff:

Easier to balance work and family responsibilities?

Academic: 27%

Administrative: 43%

Significant difference between responses by school:

More support for equality? From 37% (SE) > 73% (SH)

Better transport? From 26% (SHS) > -49% (SSS, SH)

Better use of procedures and data? SENS stands out (63%)

Often lowest satisfaction rates at SE



KEY RESULTS

- 96% out of 75 action items either in progress or complete
- 127 reform projects over the last 5 years
- 70% indicators green
- 54% of staff find that UI21 has had a positive impact on the work of the University
- Staff and administrators experienced the most significant changes in issues related to teaching, want to see a focus on human resources and the social impact of research



KEY RESULTS (CONT.)

- Very positive that satisfaction among undergraduates is increasing
- Significant improvements in teaching but workloads for teaching staff and satisfaction levels among Master's and PhD students are causes for concern, despite the specific support offered at both levels of study
- Support for research has increased but the international status of research must be secured in an environment of increased international competition between universities
- Teaching and public engagement must be recognised and better supported – steps taken in 2020
- There are still complaints about the nature of the Evaluation System – steps taken in 2020



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

LOOKING AHEAD – UI STRATEGY 2021-2026



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



UI 26



CREATION OF A
NEW STRATEGY FOR
2021–2026

**BETTER
UNIVERSITY
– BETTER
SOCIETY**

4
STRATEGIC FOCUSES
AND **50**
GOALS
AND MEASURES



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

BETTER UNIVERSITY – BETTER SOCIETY

UI26 - STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY
OF ICELAND 2021-2026

Draft Strategic Plan

It is important to continue to develop successful projects from UI21. For example:

- Support for high quality teaching (e.g., Teaching Academy and grants for pedagogical development)
- Digitalisation of teaching
- Sprettur, support for students of foreign origin
- Research infrastructure plan
- Project management office supporting researchers
- Academic guidance and mental health support for students



- The review of UI21 revealed that emphasis should be placed on
- Developing metrics, not least for monitoring the University's societal impact
 - Increasing student satisfaction, especially graduate students
 - International status of research in an increasingly competitive environment
 - Increasing the societal impact of research and specialist knowledge
 - Trust in the University
 - Reducing stress for staff, particularly academic staff
 - Ensuring that campus development and transportation better supports operations
 - Increasing the diversity of the student population



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

OVERALL VISION FOR UI26



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

VISION UI26
**BETTER
UNIVERSITY –
BETTER SOCIETY**

The University creates an open and diverse environment for learning and research, maintains strong links with key institutions and wide-ranging partnerships with universities and other seats of knowledge all over the world.

By guaranteeing absolute trust based on high standards, equality and sustainability in all areas, the University can cultivate its role as a leader in knowledge creation.



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF UI26

AGILITY

Open and agile in order to respond to increasingly rapid and complex changes and challenges

QUALITY

Coordinated standards across units in order to ensure international competitiveness in teaching and research

TRUST

Accountable, aware of important social context and able to attract academics and students from diverse backgrounds



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



HOW WILL UI BE DEFINED IN 2026?

OPEN AND INTERNATIONAL

We collaborate across faculties and schools and are open in everything we do, internally and in our relations with wider society.

SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSITY

We are a diverse group of students and staff who emphasise that learning and research should meet the needs of Icelandic society and industry and promote a sustainable world

STRENGTH BASED ON QUALITY

By focusing on quality and continuous improvement in all our work, we uphold our obligations as a driving force of progress

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

We place emphasis on robust infrastructure that supports all University operations and enables students and staff to flourish

HOW WILL UI BE DEFINED IN 2026?

BETTER UNIVERSITY – BETTER SOCIETY

OPEN AND
INTERNATIONAL

SUSTAINABILITY AND
DIVERSITY

STRENGTH BASED ON QUALITY

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

The strategic focuses fit in well with 'Universities without walls', the vision for 2030 from the European University Association (EUA)



OPEN AND INTERNATIONAL

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Frameworks will always support interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching, research and all work at the University.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Joint degree programmes offered in collaboration with universities abroad will be increased, opportunities for exchange studies expanded and international research collaboration supported.

INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT

An environment conducive to innovation by students and researchers will be developed, with emphasis on the Science Park and other dynamic partners. Action will be taken to strengthen the Icelandic language in a changing world, e.g. through the development of language technology

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

Access to lifelong learning will be improved and emphasis placed on ensuring that students have the skills they need to pursue diverse careers and tackle challenges in an agile, digitalised world

SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTING KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

The University will promote greater integration of sustainable development into learning and research

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

The University will lead the way in sustainable development and set measurable targets for decarbonisation during the strategic period, based on national targets

A DIVERSE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The University will become an even better workplace for students and staff from diverse backgrounds, with improved support for students of foreign origin and emphasis on increasing the diversity of the student population. Ensuring that information on the public University website and intranet is available in English will be a priority.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders will be mapped and a plan developed for information sharing and cooperation in order to respond to fake news and dwindling confidence in science, increase direct communication between scholars and the public and make the societal benefits of the University's work more transparent

STRENGTH BASED ON QUALITY

USER-CENTRED SERVICES

User-centred services based on the needs of students, staff and administrators will be prioritised at the University through a process of digitalisation

QUALITY OF LEARNING PRIORITISED

Teaching methods and programme offerings will be continuously developed and form the bedrock of the University's quality assurance work, with student satisfaction as a guiding principle. Emphasis will be placed on developing digital teaching methods and distance learning

HIGH QUALITY GRADUATE STUDIES

Emphasis will be placed on offering a diverse range of Master's programmes and guaranteeing funding for PhD students

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Support for researchers will be enhanced through improved access to grants and research infrastructure, as well as open and improved access to research data and findings

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

HUMAN RESOURCES AND JOB SATISFACTION

The University will promote a motivating work environment, prioritising student and staff wellbeing, that will attract ambitious people from diverse backgrounds. Support services and administration will be enhanced through stronger frameworks, education and training.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Research infrastructure, facilities and buildings support the advancement of research and teaching, as well as interdisciplinary cooperation and quality of operations

A THRIVING CAMPUS

A comprehensive vision for the University campus will promote equal access and a tight-knit knowledge-based community of staff and students from all schools. Universal design, sustainable transportation and green connectivity will be prioritised

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Funding, convenience and efficiency in management will be guaranteed. Funding and wages will reflect the University's strategic plan



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS