



**SÖDERTÖRNS HÖGSKOLA** | STOCKHOLM  
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## Mission Statement

Södertörn University offers education that encourages reflective thinking and informed citizenship, providing a meeting place for critical perspectives and knowledge that crosses established boundaries. Our research is relevant to contemporary challenges, locally and globally, and to timeless issues.

# Södertörn University's Ethos

Södertörn University conducts research and education in interdisciplinary knowledge environments on a foundation of societal relevance, openness and liberal education. Södertörn University is a thriving, urban and international academic environment, characterised by the closeness between teachers and students found at small colleges and the breadth and quality of research found at great universities. We conduct education and research in the humanities, natural sciences, social science, technology and education. The most prominent research profile is the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe, which includes all research areas. Research is done in lively, innovative groups, often with an interdisciplinary character. Södertörn University has a wide range of degree programmes, courses and contract education, and we attract students with a range of backgrounds and at different stages in their lives. We want to offer our students the best possible education and to be a dynamic meeting place for critical discourse about major contemporary issues. Internationalisation and widening participation for both students and employees are essential in achieving our objectives. Our key concepts of multidisciplinary, multiculturalism and liberal education shall continue to be embodied in all areas of our activities.

Södertörn University shall develop and strengthen higher education by combining educational innovation and commitment with responsiveness to external needs and social change.

Södertörn University shall develop and refine the cooperation between academia and the surrounding society, including individuals, corporations and the public sector, and thus contribute to the conversion to a sustainable society and lifelong learning.

Södertörn University shall protect academic freedom and the responsibility this entails. The differences between various research and subject traditions shall be respected and encouraged. The quality of our activities shall be ensured through collegial quality assurance.

Södertörn University shall be an attractive and competitive workplace, one where colleagues and employees are content and cooperative, and where everyone's expertise is utilised.

Södertörn University shall be an independent higher education institution that develops through openness, participation and influence at all levels.

# Södertörn University's Overall Objectives for Research, 2015-2019

Within 5 years, we will have achieved:

1. National and international breakthroughs in research relating to the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe, as well as recognition of the university's status as a knowledge hub for such research
2. Third-cycle education in central areas of activity
3. Teachers who conduct research, providing high quality links to research in all education
4. A greater proportion of external research funding

We will achieve the objective of "National and international breakthroughs in research relating to the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe, as well as recognition of the university's status as a knowledge hub for such research" by

- Rewarding successful research in the profile through relevant incentive structures
- Clarifying the content of the profile and problematising its scholarly borders
- Developing innovative ideas and cross-border research cooperation in the area, both geographically and thematically
- Increasing the rate of publication and publishing our results visibly, openly and strategically.

We will achieve the objective of "Third-cycle education in central areas of activity" by

- Investigating the need for changes to research areas for doctoral studies in order to develop relevant third-cycle education
- Developing area-specific themes and specialisations

- Developing new interfaces between third-cycle education and second-cycle education.

We will achieve the objective of “Teachers who conduct research, providing high quality links to research in all education” by

- Further developing “sabbaticals” and other investments in research time for teachers
- Actively recruiting researchers and teachers who contribute to our competitiveness
- Creating university-wide strategies for research linked to the university’s professional education and training.

We will achieve the objective of “A greater proportion of external research funding” by

- Creating incentives (allocating funding, qualifications, co-financing, etc.) to apply for external funding
- Coordinating and developing research funding in partnership with external stakeholders.

# Södertörn University's Overall Objectives for Education, 2015-2019

Within 5 years, we will have achieved:

1. Popular, valuable and interdisciplinary courses and programmes, with teachers that conduct research
2. The highest quality in all courses and programmes
3. Internationalisation on all courses and programmes
4. Improved and well-functioning student influence

We will achieve the objective of “Popular, valuable and interdisciplinary courses and programmes, with teachers that conduct research” by

- Developing programmes that are high quality and build upon our strengths
- Investing where we have high numbers of applications and adding a leading edge to our courses and programmes
- Creating unique and desirable teacher education for primary school teachers, focusing on interculturality and the teacher as an educator and conveyor of knowledge
- Supporting interdisciplinary educational initiatives
- Creating cross-border courses and programmes based on an international labour market
- Conducting a review of existing programme structures, including an impact assessment of the student base and quality.

We will achieve the objective of “The highest quality in all courses and programmes” by

- Establishing a qualifications system to improve teaching expertise among teachers
- Developing the university’s tradition of liberal education
- Rewarding continuing professional development for teachers and development projects in teaching and learning in higher education
- Developing forms of education that encourage the students’ active participation
- Creating functional and attractive educational environments with up-to-date technology, in partnership with the students.

We will achieve the objective of “Internationalisation on all courses and programmes” by

- Increasing international exchange among students and staff
- Using existing international networks for educational development, particularly the university’s network in the Baltic sea region
- Designing internationally oriented course and programmes at Master's level that attract students with different backgrounds and from different cultures
- Increasing the number of courses given in English in the normal range of courses we offer
- Internationalising the courses and programmes most important steering documents.

We will achieve the objective of “Improved and well-functioning student influence” by

- Developing and encouraging areas of cooperation with the university’s students’ union

- Utilising student enthusiasm in work on developing and changing courses and programmes
- Offering all students access to a varied range of study environments
- Providing efficient and coordinated administrative support for studies.

# Södertörn University's Overall Objectives for Third Stream Activities, 2015-2019

Third stream activities are increasingly seen as an issue of quality and an important element in research and education's role in society. Third stream activities include a broad perspective that naturally involves co-production, mutual benefit and relevance, as well as critical examination and problematisation. Various parts of Södertörn University's activities already cooperate successfully, however there is a need for a targeted strategy for expanding, highlighting and facilitating third stream activities. The route to Södertörn University must be apparent to the outside world.

The university's campus in Flemingsberg is expanding and new organisations are moving into the area, which is positive for Södertörn University. Södertörn University wants to be part of promoting and influencing this expansion and focus on the campus as a knowledge hub for the entire region of southern Stockholm. A thriving campus is an important element in third stream activities and is also a vital part of the university's development as an attractive and competitive workplace, one where employees enjoy their work and work together for common, well established objectives.

Within 1 year, we will have achieved:

1. A new policy with a strategy and clear statement of intent for third stream activities

Within 5 years, we will have achieved:

1. Third stream activities that are of mutual benefit to the university and the surrounding community
2. Incentives that reward and encourage third stream activities
3. Third stream activities and projects linked to the university's profile: the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe
4. A thriving campus

We will achieve the objective of “Third stream activities that are of mutual benefit to the university and the surrounding community” by

- Identifying indicators for ethical, sustainable and enriching third stream activities and co-production
- Assessing the quality of third stream activities.

We will achieve the objective of “Incentives that reward and encourage third stream activities” by

- Incentivisation that includes specific support to enable research in or in association with third stream projects
- Acting so that third stream activities provide qualifications for teachers and researchers.

We will achieve the objective of “Third stream activities and projects linked to the university’s profile: the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe” by

- Investing in third stream research, which contributes to the development of new research areas and research questions for our Baltic Sea region and Eastern European profile
- Developing and highlighting the university’s channels for third stream activities in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern European profile for both the surrounding research community and the interested general public.

We will achieve the objective of “A thriving campus” by

- Encouraging and supporting the building of student housing and a shared students’ union building for the area’s students
- Contributing to creating an academic meeting place that is open, attractive and stimulating for both academics and the general public with the university library as its hub
- Utilising the students’ and staff’s visions about the study environment, quality of education and societal involvement.