At Halmstad University, we want to find new ways to make a better world. Through knowledge, innovation and collaboration, we want to strengthen both the individual and society – as we believe this is how future challenges must be faced. Our research and education play an active role in society and are characterised by innovation and cross-boundary cooperation.

The world faces major challenges in the future – economic, social and environmental. Meeting these challenges requires knowledge. Halmstad University conducts research and education to help us better understand the world and the society in which we live. Therefore, we are not only looking for the answers – but also for new questions to ask.

Halmstad University has always been characterised by new ways of thinking and innovation. At Halmstad University, researchers are working across field boundaries to develop the knowledge required to solve challenging problems. We have unique and interdisciplinary education programmes, many of which are developed in cooperation with representatives from the public sector.

New ideas come to life through encounters between different competencies, ideas and experiences. Therefore, interaction is a vital part of our soul. It is through partnership with businesses, organisations and the public sector that we develop and can disseminate knowledge and innovations. We also cherish our collaborations with other educational institutions, in Sweden and abroad. Contact with the outside world is a prerequisite for all our activities.

We strive for students, teachers and researchers working in an environment where the individual is allowed to develop, and where our differences are seen as strengths. Together we can contribute to social progress and making a better world.

Mikael Alexandersson
Vice-Chancellor
Three **Key Areas of Focus**

**Halmstad University conducts education and research in a wide area, such as in engineering, nursing, humanities, health, social sciences, education, natural science and economy. We have three key areas where we are particularly strong and where we conduct education at master level and within research:**

**Information Technology** makes new progress possible within large areas of natural science and technology, such as in biomechanics, traffic and transport, environment, energy, health, and communication. Our research on embedded and intelligent systems is something we are particularly known for, even internationally.

**Innovation Science** includes, amongst other things, entrepreneurship, innovation, social changes, environment, and leadership. The focus is on the development of activities in which technology, natural and social perspectives are all combined.

**Health Sciences** focuses on people’s quality of life. This implies not only welfare and lifestyle, but also culture, education and learning, sport, nursing, and healthcare.

**New ideas put into action**

We are actively working to take full advantage of the creativity and resourcefulness created at the University. Students and researchers can further develop their ideas for new services, through for example collaboration with Science Park Halmstad, in which Halmstad University is a partner. The University also supports innovation and entrepreneurship through student motivators, career guidance and scholarships.
Creativity blossoms at the annual graduation exhibition

One of the University’s annual highlights is Utexpo. It is a three-day trade show where hundreds of students, particularly those in science and engineering programmes, show off their graduation projects. Visitors can take part in many exciting innovations and creative solutions where scholarships, worth hundreds of thousands of crowns, are awarded to the University’s most talented students.

Information and appointments in the University Library

The University Library is an important resource for the University’s education programmes and research. It has, besides all the course literature, a large amount of electronic databases, information services, literature required for specialisation and magazines. You can also find quiet places for study here and receive professional help in your search for information.

Did you know that ...

… Halmstad University is also in the town of Varberg (75 kilometres north of Halmstad)? At Campus Varberg we have education programmes such as energy economics and nursing.
… The University has exchange agreements with universities and education institutes in 48 countries from all over the world?
… Halmstad University has teacher education from pre-school to upper secondary school?
… Health innovation: Bike Around, that was developed by the Centre for Health Technology, Halland, has been named one of the world’s top 100 innovations by South Korean Money Today Media Group?
… Some 60 companies collaborate with the university in projects in the Knowledge Foundation’s environment focus (Swedish: KK-stiftelsen): ”Research for Innovation”? (See page 14)
Fertile ground for entrepreneurship

Many successful companies have seen the light of day thanks to Halmstad University. Nearly 100 companies in Halmstad have been started by former students; sometimes while still a student, thanks to their graduation project. The most famous example is HMS, which today is a world leading electronics company with 350 employees, and to be found in ten different countries. Other examples are, Comfort Audio, Delta and Phoniros.

Honorary Doctors

Halmstad University has awarded three honorary doctors who in different ways have contributed to the University’s development. Jan Einar Blomqvist, who laid the foundation for the programme of innovation engineering, was appointed in 2011. Second honorary doctor is Nicolas Hassbjer, a successful entrepreneur and former student. In 2013, it was time for Maj-Britt Sandlund, a former county councillor, who in the 70s was one of the driving forces for getting higher education in the county of Halland.

Sports centre and laboratories for physical education

At Halmstad University, high quality research and education is conducted in the field of physical education and health. Therefore, there are good opportunities to combine both theoretical work and practical exercise. Two superbly equipped laboratories are available and are used for research and education. In the University sports centre is a large sports hall with climbing wall, gym, spinning and aerobics rooms.
Health Innovation for Future Welfare

Health Innovation is a multidisciplinary theme and is a major consensus in the University’s research, education and the application of activities. The outset is that the future of health innovation requires expertise from various fields; such as: engineering, finance, healthcare, health, education, and biomechanics, just to name a few. On several of the University’s courses, students have the opportunity to supplement their education with a health innovation theme. The Centre for Health Technology Halland at the University is a project workshop where ideas are developed and where research within this field is put to use.
What makes Halmstad University’s education programmes so special is that they are characterised by innovation and good cooperation with the community and the public sector. Students leave with knowledge that extends across traditional subject boundaries – and is in demand in the public sector.

It is easy to be happy at Halmstad University, and one of the reasons is the close and valuable contact between students, teachers and researchers. The distance is never great between subject areas, or between the University and other areas of society. The fact that Halmstad University is a small and relatively young institution does its bit too – as there are no high thresholds or long traditions to take into consideration.

At the University, we combine subject areas in new and exciting ways; something that characterises many of our programmes. This may, for example, involve combining knowledge of the human body with modern technology – in order to develop products to improve our health. It may also involve the integration of political science and communication, which provide new tools to address future societal changes.

Education programmes at Halmstad University have strong links to research, and our researchers are actively involved in teaching. This means that students are getting the latest knowledge in the respective subjects. Some students also contribute to research by linking their degree project to major research projects conducted at the University.

Collaboration with the community is the common theme when it comes to the University’s educational programmes. This may involve, for example, internships, sponsorship or degree projects in collaboration with clients/employers from outside the University. For students, it provides the possibility to connect the theoretical studies to a working environment. For employers, it’s a way to get access to the University’s expertise and contacts with the future workforce.

Our work has always been characterised by innovation and new ways of thinking. Many of our educational programmes/courses are designed to help students become used to managing projects, make use of their own incentives and to think beyond the boundaries.
At Halmstad University, there are some 50 undergraduate level programmes and approximately 250 independent courses in several subject areas.

**Unique Programmes Attract**

The most common reason that students choose to study at Halmstad University is due to the uniqueness of the courses. The second most common reason that students choose the University is that the city of Halmstad attracts. This is according to a survey among University students (recruitment survey 2013). The programmes that have the most number of applicants are the Business and Economics programme and the Nursing programme.

**Generous scholarships to students**

Every year, students from Halmstad University have the opportunity of financial help, thanks to scholarships. The largest is the so-called Fåré scholarship where a total of approx. half a million Swedish crowns (SEK) is annually awarded to students in engineering programmes. Other examples are the Swedish trade scholarships for students studying economics and Halmstad Municipality’s scholarships for essays in the field of functional disability.
The University has the right to educate engineers and economists. In the autumn of 2014, the Computer Science and Engineering programme was started, and planning is also taking place to also start an engineering programme specialising in industrial innovation. The University has, as earlier stated, a business and economics programme.

Career and well-being

We work intensively at the University to make sure our students feel good about themselves and receive the support they need to succeed in their studies and future lives.

Our study and career advisors provide support when it is time to choose an education or plan studies. Through our career activities, students can prepare for life after University by, for example, mock interviews, brainstorming and motivational lectures.

The Student Healthcare Centre works with health and study situation. In addition to an open reception, courses and activities are arranged. The University also provides personalised support for students with disabilities and offers students help with writing.

International environment

Many of the students at Halmstad University choose to study a part of their degree abroad. The University has exchange agreements with some 50 countries worldwide. Similarly, foreign students choose to study in Halmstad; therefore, an international presence on campus is highly evident.
Halmstad University has research in three key areas of focus: Information Technology, Innovation Science and Health Sciences. The research contributes to the general development of knowledge in society and provides a research basis to undergraduate education.

Research work at Halmstad University is characterised by the ability to cross boundaries, i.e. researchers from different fields working together to find new ways to understand and solve complex problems. One example is the research field of health innovation, where knowledge in areas such as technology, health, education, and healthcare are united in exciting, new ways.

Halmstad University has a tradition of practical applied research, which is conducted in close contact with industry and commerce, organisations and the public sector. It provides researchers with ideas for interesting research issues and real problems. This way, research will naturally come to use.

Many research projects are also done in collaboration with other educational institutions – both nationally and internationally. Halmstad University is recruiting distinguished researchers from different parts of the world; therefore, our research environment is very international.

Results and findings from the research will be useful and benefit society in many different ways. There may be new methods in nursing and health; problem solutions leading to new commercial products or even new knowledge that will help us preserve our environment.
Halmstad University has three key areas when conducting postgraduate education: Information Technology, Innovation Sciences, and Health Sciences. This means that we can examine to postgraduate level. Halmstad University is the only university in the country with the right to award PhDs in Innovation Sciences.

Postgraduate education

Halmstad University celebrates regular academic ceremonies, e.g. the inauguration of new professors, as well as the conferment of doctoral degrees. The University celebrated its first academic ceremony in 1998 and will celebrate its tenth in the autumn of 2015.

Where does the money come from?

The University’s research has a turnover of around 100 million Swedish crowns (SEK) annually. Approximately half of the money that finances research at Halmstad University is external grants from funding agencies, and industry and commerce. The biggest funders are: the research financier, Knowledge Foundation (Swedish: KK-stiftelse), the Swedish Research Council and VINNOVA (Sweden’s innovation agency).
Research Areas

The University’s research is organised in research environments. Within the environments, researchers focus on common research fields. In short, research is conducted in the following areas:

Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Learning
Welfare, Health and Sport
Embedded Intelligent Systems
Mechanical Engineering Processes
Biological and Environmental Systems
Technologies in Social Change
Education and Learning
Culture Research

World-class research

Research conducted at Halmstad University is renowned both nationally and internationally. This was made clear by ARC13 (Assessment of Research and Co-production), the evaluation of the institution’s research and co-production which was done in 2013 by external experts. Research at Halmstad University excelled particularly well when it came to collaboration with business and industry.
The University area is called the Bærtling Quarter after Halmstad-born artist Olle Bærtling, whose art adorns the campus.