



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

DECISION

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Rektor

## **Strategy for cultural collaboration 2018-2026**

*Approved by the vice-chancellor on 25 January 2018 in the presence of the deputy university director.*

Artistic and cultural activities are a natural part of the academic mission of many internationally prominent higher education institutions. Strong cultural activities and outstanding artists associated with the University contribute to its brand and power of attraction.

Lund University and the University of Gothenburg are the only multi-faculty universities in the Nordic Area to conduct both artistic and science-based education and research. Lund University comprises a high level of expertise and extensive activities within the artistic, cultural and culturally-oriented fields. The University has good opportunities to further develop external engagement and to clarify the significance of its cultural activities. The strategy for cultural collaboration aims to further reinforce the University's external engagement in the field of art and culture and adheres to the *Strategic Plan for Lund University 2017-2026*.

The aim is for artistic expertise and artistic and culturally-oriented knowledge to work together with other forms of scholarly knowledge production to contribute to the University's success in education and research to a significantly higher degree than today. During the strategy's period of validity, the aim is for artistic and cultural activities and expertise to be self-evident and well-known elements of Lund University.

### **Starting points**

The starting point for the strategy for cultural collaboration is the activity within artistic and culturally-oriented disciplines within the University: the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts<sup>1</sup>, art and culture-oriented education and research within other faculties<sup>2</sup>, public or otherwise available art and cultural activities within the University and student life. To these, the University's rich cultural heritage in the form of unique collections, environments and buildings<sup>3</sup> are added.

The cultural strategy uses art and culture as sector concepts. Here *art* refers to expressions, practitioners and activities within the arts (literature, music, theatre, dance, fine art, visual art, film). *Culture* also refers to cultural heritage (museums,

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<sup>1</sup> The Art Academy, the Academy of Music, the Theatre Academy and the Inter Arts Centre.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. The Department of Cultural Sciences, the Centre for Languages and Literature, the Department of Media and Communication, the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, the Department of Design Sciences.

<sup>3</sup> E.g. Skissernas museum – Museum of Artistic Process and Public Art, the Historical Museum, the University Library, the Folklife Archives, the Botanical Garden, the Biology Museum, the Lund Church History Archive, Arkivcentrum Syd, Odeum, the King's House and cultural activities within student life.

archives, libraries, collections, cultural memorials, cultural environments, cultural history, academic traditions), activities close to the arts such as design, architecture and crafts, as well as popular culture expressions and activities. Education and research specialising in the study of the above are also included in the strategy's concept of culture.

### **Current situation**

Lund University already contributes to developing national and regional cultural life, but there is considerable scope for enriching cultural life to an even greater extent. Many of the artists educated at the University are among the most renowned in their respective fields, with national and international careers. Researchers and teaching staff linked to artistic and culturally-oriented education and research, influence and are part of the development of cultural life, both nationally and internationally. Several of these activities have well-developed collaborations with the surrounding art and culture scene and societal life, as well as a high degree of internationalisation.

Public cultural organisations (Skissernas museum – Museum of Artistic Process and Public Art, the Historical Museum, the Botanical Garden, etc.) are important parts of the public cultural range on offer in Lund and in the region, but they also have an international reach and contribute to deepening knowledge and discussion on art, culture and society. The University's museums and collections enable historical perspectives on ongoing changes in society and living environments. They also constitute significant infrastructure for research and education. The University's buildings represent an architectural cultural heritage and characterise parts of the cityscape of Lund. Within student life, there is a rich tradition of cultural practice within orchestra performance, choirs, theatre, student cabaret, literature, journalism, etc.

The artistic knowledge production of higher education institutions has been in focus since 2009, when doctoral degrees in artistic disciplines were included in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance. The performative and innovative approach of artistic research has proven to be significant not only for artistic practice, but also for contact with other disciplines. One important way forward for Lund University is therefore to increase awareness of what artistic knowledge and knowledge production can mean and to intensify the exchange of knowledge and methods with other academic activities.

### **Art, culture and societal challenges**

Today's societal challenges, within areas such as the climate and environment, sustainable development, migration, digitisation and demographic change, are complex, interconnected and sometimes contradictory. Meeting these challenges presumes increased collaboration between different fields of knowledge. Here, the broad universities have a central role to play.

Artistic and cultural activities are central to maintaining democracy and an open society. The arts are also to be seen as forms of knowledge in their own right. Furthermore, there is currently evidence for links between artistic activities and creativity and innovation, between participation in cultural activities and health and well-being, between cultural practice and learning, between culture and socioeconomic benefit, and for the contribution of cultural life to social change.

Art and culturally-oriented knowledge contribute to enabling people to better understand society and themselves. These activities are indispensable for society's capacity for self-reflection, questioning and innovation, but also, and perhaps in particular, for the individual's ability to accommodate hope and vision, to imagine possible futures and thereby be part of improving our world and the human condition.

## **Strategies for 2018-2026**

Lund University already has a strong position within the field of art and culture. The aim is for artistic and culturally oriented activities, knowledge and expertise to be even clearer and better known parts of Lund University at the latest by the end of the strategy period. The measures below will therefore be implemented:

- Increase knowledge within the University about its artistic and cultural expertise to stimulate interdisciplinary collaborations in which artistic and cultural expertise are an essential component.
- Investigate the possibilities of offering an artistic/cultural/humanities orientation within several of the University's study programmes (in line with what is known as Liberal Arts in the USA).
- Facilitate the access of employees, students and the general public to the University's archives and museum collections, for example through investment in good public search systems and catalogues. At the same time, the University's libraries, archives and collections are to be further developed as a resource and infrastructure for education and research.
- Utilise artistic expertise and cultural activities to reinforce Lund University's image and to highlight and increase the visibility of the University as a cultural environment.
- Identify/develop opportunities for participation in cultural and societal debate to contribute to the new public forums emerging as a result of the changing media landscape.
- Support student-driven culture and provide it with the conditions to develop and include a breadth of activities capable of attracting different student groups.
- Clarify the importance of culture for the University's development by investigating the conditions for drawing attention at the university-wide level to outstanding initiatives within the field of culture, for example through annual awards/prizes/scholarships or a university-wide umbrella organisation for lecture series/debates/other events.
- Develop collaboration between Lund University's outreach activities in the arts and culture and the cities of Lund, Malmö and Helsingborg and Region Skåne.
- Develop collaboration with cultural institutions in Lund, Malmö and Helsingborg so that the interaction between artistic education/research and cultural institutions is maintained and developed.
- Work to ensure that the definition of infrastructure support at the national level covers artistic and cultural infrastructure, more clearly than it does today.
- Identify a structure that is fit for purpose to pursue the development of cultural activities as described above. This includes a review of the allocation of roles within cultural collaboration between the LUKOM board, faculty organisations and the Culture Forum LU network. The structure for cultural collaboration is to be drawn up during 2018 on behalf of the vice-chancellor. Financial scope for cultural collaboration in accordance with the above structure (equivalent to one full-time position) is set aside in the budget proposal for 2019.
- Encourage the organisations concerned to highlight their initiatives to achieve these goals in their action plans and annual reports.

## **Implementation and responsibility**

The responsibility for implementation rests with the University's faculties and activities, but is coordinated and followed up in accordance with the structure for running cultural activities produced as a result of the 2018 review. Follow-up is to take place annually after 2019.