



Norwegian University  
of Life Sciences

# Strategy 2014–2018

## The time of opportunity - an ambitious strategy for NMBU

This is a time of major opportunities and high expectations. The merger and the forthcoming focus on Campus Ås provide NMBU with all the prerequisites to succeed and to assume a prominent position among the universities in Norway and internationally.

NMBU is an international university with a diversity that is tailor-made for meeting a number of the major global challenges. The solutions to these challenges will primarily be found from within, and not least at the point of intersection between our academic fields. With a unique synthesis of environment, bioscience, veterinary medicine, technology, land planning and economics, NMBU has particularly good prerequisites for contributing new knowledge and new solutions.

The results are created in the academic communities. We shall have research communities that are top class internationally. We shall be characterised by having a high quality of study, high ambitions for research dissemination and strong contributions towards innovation and value creation.

Our ambitions are high, however we know that we share these ambitions with the academic communities and with all of our skilled and dedicated researchers and teaching staff, together with the students and all those in technical and administrative positions. "Knowledge for life" is our shared vision, and everyone is making a formidable effort. The possibilities are there in front of us and we are ready to contribute. We shall demand a great deal of ourselves and we will make a big difference.



Mari Sundli Tveit  
Rector





## Strategy 2014-2018 for the Norwegian University of Life Sciences



On 1 January 2014, two institutions with long and proud histories were merged to form a new university: The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). The University's academic fields are concentrated into seven faculties.





## NMBU's societal mission

### NMBU will:

- Be a constructive, future-oriented and critical education and research institution that cooperates with universities and other research institutions all over the world to develop new knowledge.
- Educate graduates who are competent and reflective, who have an international outlook and who will be attractive participants in domestic and international society.
- Have responsibility for research at a high international level, and have research groups that are among the best in the world in selected areas.

### NMBU has very special prerequisites because:

- The research institutions at Campus Ås and NMBU together constitute an internationally competitive research and educational community within bioscience, because these research communities create new academic synergies and new cross-disciplinary approaches.
- The students participate in a creative learning and study environment with long traditions.
- NMBU is an international university with students and employees from almost 100 different countries and with a long tradition of international cooperation.

### NMBU must have a particular responsibility for:

- Research that can face the major global issues of environment, sustainable development, better human and animal health, climate challenges, renewable energy sources, food production “from land and fjord to the table” and land and resource management.
- Education of graduates in the environmental sciences and biosciences, veterinarian medicine and new cross-disciplinary programmes that provide society with new opportunities to create sustainable development to the benefit of current and future generations.
- Innovation and value creation, dissemination of knowledge and participation in the global efforts for sustainable development in the areas where NMBU is at the forefront.

## ANMBU's vision is knowledge for life

NMBU's vision of Knowledge for Life expresses the University's overarching goal of contributing to securing the basis for life in the future through outstanding research, education, dissemination of knowledge and innovation.



## Knowledge as a common goal

NMBU's graduates have expertise at a high academic level, are in demand and contribute to sustainable value creation to secure the basis for life in the future.

NMBU's graduates have academic depth, interdisciplinary comprehension and international perspectives.

NMBU has free and independent research at a high level internationally, which yields new knowledge for sustainable development.

NMBU will particularly work towards raising the quality of:

- Teaching expertise, pedagogical development and forms of work involving students.
- National and international cooperation in education.
- Binding cooperation with business and industry, public administration and society in general.
- Research production
- Research infrastructure
- Innovation and value creation

NMBU will therefore place particular emphasis on:

- Offensive student recruitment, which highlights the opportunities in NMBU's education programmes.
- High quality and good progression through the education programmes.
- Evaluation and accreditation of the education programmes.
- Opportunities for synergy among the academic communities resulting from the merger.
- Educating researchers.
- Opportunities of the academic communities to establish and further develop outstanding research communities and networks.
- Uninterrupted time for research, combined with requirements for research activities and publication
- Financing from various national and international sources
- New arenas for research cooperation at Campus Ås
- Common support functions for innovation and commercialisation at Campus Ås
- Role of the academic communities in further and continuing education

## Knowledge shall be shared

### Goals

Along with its strategic partners, NMBU has an internationally leading role in future-oriented areas of environmental sciences and biosciences, and creates new academic synergies together with the research clusters at Adamstuen and Ås.

Together with the research institutes at Ås and Adamstuen, NMBU is the foremost national research cluster that contributes to innovation and value creation in environmental sciences and biosciences.

NMBU is the best institution in Norway for the dissemination of research results.

NMBU provides relevant further and continuing education.



## Life at the university

### Goals

NMBU is Norway's leading environmental university.

NMBU integrates academic communities and technical-administrative support functions in a common organisation that gives staff and students a clear sense of belonging and pride in the new university.

NMBU has good physical facilities and research and study infrastructure, and it reinforces the HSE efforts.

NMBU will participate in the execution of major building projects and has proficient management of the relocation process.

### NMBU will therefore place particular emphasis on:

- Competent and clear academic and administrative management at all levels
- Flexible and result-oriented distribution of responsibilities and tasks between the various levels of the organisation
- A common sense of belonging to a place of work and study through measures that promote insight, respect, trust and commitment, which build on NMBU's core values
- Students having a sense of belonging to an academic entity that is responsible for their education programme
- Good internal culture where clarity, communication and involvement are central
- Focused recruitment of new staff
- Value-preserving maintenance of the physical facilities
- Systematic work with health, safety and the environment.
- Staff and student participation and co-determination in the development of their own workplace
- Personnel policy that safeguards all groups of employees and ensures professional and academic development
- An ambitious gender equality and inclusiveness plan
- The environmental university should have a presence throughout all the activities
- Cooperation with the University Foundation for Student Life in Ås, Ås Municipality, and Akershus County Council regarding student welfare and increased availability of housing for students and staff.
- A stimulating working and learning environment in which the potential of each staff member and student is realised and provides

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE.





# NMBU’S academic organisation

The academic departments are organised into seven faculties, which give NMBU new opportunities to create academic synergies and interdisciplinary activity:

Faculty of Science and Technology
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Faculty of Landscape and Society
Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management
Faculty of Chemistry, Biotechnology and Food Science
Faculty of Biosciences
School of Economics and Business



## Core values

NMBU shall be an organisation that has:

### Respect

Academic life is characterised by openness and mutual respect for each other's background, experiences, work and professional viewpoints. Staff and students are responsible citizens and fellow humans in the academic community.

### Ambition

We set high goals and require quality and ethical standards in everything we do. We shall make it possible for every individual to be able to fulfil his/her academic potential. We shall encourage ambition among our staff and students.

### Independence

Academic freedom is a fundamental principle of the university's activities.

### Interaction

Our activities shall be characterised by interaction, internally within the university and with the world at large. We shall create an inclusive culture, working environment and academic community founded on openness, tolerance and interaction.



**NMBU**  
**Norwegian University of Life Sciences**  
P.O.Box 5003, NO-1432 Ås  
Norway

+47 67 23 00 00  
[www.nmbu.no](http://www.nmbu.no)