



Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Faculty of Landscape and Society

Strategy 2019 - 2023



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Preface

The Faculty of Landscape and Society was established on 1 January 2017. The Faculty consists of the following Departments: Urban and Regional Planning; Property and Law; Public Health Science; International Environmental and Development Studies (Noragric); and Landscape Architecture.

The Faculty is well equipped to contribute to sustainable development of society through high quality and relevant education and research. Research dissemination and the Faculty's contribution to future solutions to global and local challenges are important focus areas.

The strategy is the result of a process of joining overarching frameworks with the Faculty's priorities. It follows up both the NMBU strategy and the Faculty's own objectives. The strategy of each Department within the Faculty will likewise follow the Faculty strategy, and build upon the Department's own priorities.

The strategy consist of three parts. The first part summarises the vision, values and societal role of the Faculty, and builds upon the NMBU strategy. The second part presents the main initiatives at the core of the Faculty. The last part elaborates on the four focus areas of the Faculty, including securing and maintaining national and international relevance, synergies within the Faculty, lifelong learning and the working environment at the Faculty.

This is the first strategy of the new Faculty. It will provide a basis both for the Faculty's annual plans, budget, action plans and staffing plans, and for the strategies of the Departments within the Faculty.

The Faculty Board approved this strategy on 7 June 2018.

Ås, 8 June 2018

Eva Falleth
Dean

Vision, values and civil role

NMBU's vision is 'Knowledge for Life'. The Faculty's role in society and its academic profile are very much in line with this vision.

The Faculty's research and education benefit society and the environment. The world faces major challenges such as globalization, urbanization and climate change, with complex repercussions on the environment and society. The Faculty contributes to face these challenges through independent knowledge aimed at exploring, understanding and providing solutions for sustainable social development.

The Faculty will further develop its strong national and international academic environments in urban and regional planning, property, public health science, landscape architecture and international environmental and development studies.

The Faculty has both professional and disciplinary fields of study. It includes both natural science and technology, and has particular responsibility for the social sciences, humanities, aesthetics and law at NMBU. Combined, this constitutes a unique multi- and interdisciplinary Faculty.

The main initiatives of the Faculty

High quality in research and education is the foundation of all our activities. We will achieve this through continuous development conducted within academic groups and program committees.

The Faculty shall:

- Have innovative academic groups that produce strong scholarly results and have leading roles in their fields
- Have high-quality and relevant study programs that attract the best students
- Have research and development projects of high academic quality and relevance for society
- Promote and strengthen interdisciplinarity at the Faculty and at NMBU
- Promote and strengthen social science, humanistic, aesthetic and law at NMBU
- Strengthen the relationship between research and education

Measures:

- Prioritize applications to the ERC, EU and RCN, and make an action plan for EU applications
- Prioritize mobility through ERASMUS for employees and students
- Prioritize pedagogical development and digital solutions
- Strengthen methodological competence in research and education
- Develop innovation within the Faculty's disciplines
- Support measures involving both research and education

Four focus areas

The Faculty has defined four areas of focus that are given extra attention in this strategy.

These are:

1. Strong academic environments with national and international positions
2. Synergies within the Faculty
3. Lifelong learning
4. Working environment at the Faculty

1. Strong academic environments with national and international positions

The Faculty is unique in its multi- and interdisciplinary profile and has nationally and internationally leading academic environments. The Faculty faces increasing competition with academic quality and a clear societal role.

The Faculty shall:

- o Be the leading national academic institution within its academic fields
- o Educate candidates with future-oriented competence and skills
- o Strengthen awareness and the reputation of our subject areas and study programs

Measures:

- o Prioritize research groups and program committees that aim to be leading in their field
- o Work towards more fully-funded study places
- o Further develop the Research School and assess merging the Faculty's PhD programs
- o Conduct evaluations of all study programs and follow up action plans
- o Ensure good research and education infrastructures, including the Norwegian Landscape Laboratory
- o Prioritize researchers who aspire to be active and visible in public debate
- o Participate in public debate through broad and relevant knowledge dissemination, with a particular focus on social media
- o Achieve strategic academic positions and academic events
- o Cooperate with eminent public, private and academic institutions

2. Synergies within the Faculty

The Faculty's activities are conducted through the various academic environments and study programs in its five Departments. These diverse academic environments will be preserved. Whilst the Faculty's academic environments have different thematic and geographical focus and use different theories, the subject fields and study programs also have overlapping themes, research methods and teaching methods. These provide the basis for synergies through collaboration and academic development.

The Faculty shall:

- Strengthen collaboration between its research and teaching communities
- Support projects that emphasize interdisciplinarity
- Create a common working culture

Measures:

- Allocate financial resources to projects involving collaboration between the Departments
- Develop joint courses as specialization within the study programs
- Provide academic and social meeting places and organize joint events
- Further develop internal communications through newsletters, open meetings and the intranet

3. Lifelong learning

Society is in a state of transformation. This increases the need for new knowledge and skills that are required throughout life. 'Lifelong learning' means that the Faculty will develop its own skills and competence to address societal change, whilst striving to offer increased skills and competence to society.

The Faculty shall:

- Have a strong national role in lifelong learning
- Encourage competence development for everyone at the Faculty
- Ensure good Norwegian and English language skills amongst its employees

Measures:

- Focus on providing new offers in continued education
- Facilitate competence development in the Faculty administration
- Strengthen the scope of private and public PhD scholarships
- Strengthen academic writing support for employees and students
- Provide opportunities for employees to strengthen their competence in Norwegian and English

4. Working environment at the Faculty

The working environment is the basis of all of the Faculty's activities. This environment should include respect for other's work, participation and cooperation, and a physical working environment that supports the Faculty's activities, all of which are crucial for assuring quality in education and research.

The Faculty shall:

- Actively participate in the implementation of the Campus Plan
- Ensure a good working environment based on respect, openness, participation and equality
- Be an attractive employer
- Be financially sustainable
- Provide good administrative support for academic activities

Measures:

- Ensure good, functional workplaces for students and employees, attractive informal meeting places and an appropriate research and education infrastructure
- Clarify responsibilities between Departments, the administration, advisory boards and committees
- Have regular meetings between the leadership, unions and safety delegates (IDF meetings)
- Develop an effective staffing plan to reduce the number of temporary employees
- Develop an action plan for equality
- Include career development in the annual staff appraisal
- Evaluate the 'Team' system in the Faculty's administration and prioritize the development of the administration and leadership
- Ensure sound implementation of projects and study courses through proper management and administrative support
- Further development the financial and business management of the Faculty
- Address harassment, privacy protection and ethics at the Faculty
- Strengthen HSE work at the Faculty