



Department of Landscape Architecture

# Ambitions 2020 - 2024



## AMBITIONS 2020 - 2024

### Foreword

The Department of Landscape Architecture is a unique national and international academic environment with a focus on sustainable landscape development from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The Department manages one of the world's oldest landscape architecture study programmes and in 2019, it celebrated its 100th anniversary as an education programme in Norwegian landscape architecture. The academic environment has developed over time and now also incorporates landscape engineering. In 2020, an international study programme in landscape architecture was launched based on the Department and Faculty's wide academic expertise and international focus. In 2017, NMBU's *green environment* group, including the Plant School, was transferred to the Faculty and organised under the Department. The Department is also responsible for important education and research infrastructures, including the Norwegian Landscape Laboratory, the Virtual Reality Laboratory (VR lab) and the Historical Archive of Norwegian Landscape Architecture.

The Department's disciplines are of great relevance to societal development, and the subject areas are important aspects of NMBU and the Faculty's profile and social mission. Ambition 2020–2024 is an important document on the further development of the academic environments at the Department, and thereby the Faculty and NMBU as a whole.

The strategy was approved by the Dean on 28 October 2020.

Eva Falleth  
Dean  
Faculty of Landscape and Society

## OUR SOCIAL MISSION

The Department of Landscape Architecture plays an essential role in the work of creating future landscapes based on the challenges society currently faces. These challenges include urban densification, more extreme weather, biodiversity preservation and the adaptation of expedient physical frameworks to provide a good quality of life for the population. Based on 100 years of research and education experience in the fields of landscape architecture and planning, the Department will help to set the agenda for how landscapes can be developed with high aesthetic quality in a sustainable manner. The Department will educate candidates from an environmental university who are attractive in the private and public sector, and who bring with them a holistic understanding of the discipline as well as of the professions of landscape architecture and landscape engineering. This holistic understanding will provide a good foundation for the candidates' careers.

Research and problem-based teaching, in addition to teaching-based research, in design, creative problem-solving, in public administration and the relationship between nature and society will enable the candidates to find answers to some of society's most pressing challenges: How can we conserve and develop landscapes, cultural heritage, biodiversity, society and solidarity under the pressures of climate change and urbanisation? The Department seeks to influence practice both through research and by contributing expertise in high profile projects.

## VISION

The Department will contribute to creating the landscape of the future by way of outstanding education, dissemination, innovation and research in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Landscape Convention. The Department will continue to develop its interdisciplinary tradition and NMBU's academic diversity.

The Faculty has defined four focus areas that will be given particular attention. These are:

1. Strong national and international academic environments
2. Synergies within the Faculty
3. Life-long learning
4. Life at the Faculty

The Department wishes to follow up these areas in its Ambitions Plan.

## 1. STRONG NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS

a) The Department will contribute to a sustainable, fair and more inclusive society in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Landscape Convention.

### Measures:

- Participate in public debate by way of broad and relevant knowledge dissemination to the general public
- Communicate the ways in which the Department's long and rich landscape architecture tradition can promote development towards more sustainable and aesthetic surroundings
- The Department's staff will take on offices, positions and event responsibilities of strategic relevance to the subject area

b) The Department will have a clear *green* profile and be a national centre of expertise that contributes to promoting green cities, sustainable land use and landscape development.

### Measures:

- Spearhead the development of the discipline towards conservation of biodiversity by working for all life that exists in multi-functional blue-green structures
- Provide education that emphasises social sustainability in the design of surroundings
- Make better use of the unique and broad expertise available at different departments of NMBU – *the sustainability university*

c) The Department will prioritise developing its study programmes to increase the attractiveness of its course portfolio and make it a first choice as a place of study.

### Measures:

- The Department will have a course portfolio of relevance to current issues and with a forward-looking perspective
- Continuously assess and evaluate all study programmes, and follow up action plans
- Ensure up-to-date and captivating presentation of the Department's study programmes and our students' work

## 1. STRONG NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS

d) The Department will prioritise research that helps to increase its attractiveness as a partner and its relevance and role as a social actor.

### Measures:

- Cooperate with attractive institutions in society, the business sector and academia
- Ensure good research and education infrastructure, including the Norwegian Landscape Laboratory NMBU
- Prioritise researchers who strive to be active and visible in the public debate
- Further develop the research school to make it as relevant as possible for PhD candidates

e) The Department will maintain its ambition to be an outstanding and internationally oriented institution.

### Measures:

- Make NMBU landscape architects' profile stand out in relation to other Nordic landscape architecture programmes
- Improve cooperation with relevant international education institutions in the fields of landscape engineering and landscape architecture
- Establish a new two-year Master of Landscape Architecture for Global Sustainability programme (GLA programme)

## 2. SYNERGIES WITHIN THE FACULTY

a) The Department will use its research infrastructure (VR lab, Norwegian Landscape Laboratory NMBU, Historical Archive of Norwegian Landscape Architecture) to create bridges both within the Faculty and to society at large.

### Measures:

- Further develop and promote Campus Ås as a learning arena and hub
- Clarify in which courses VR will be incorporated into learning outcomes and integrated in teaching

b) The Department will work alongside others to establish joint, interdisciplinary courses at the Faculty and otherwise contribute to courses at the other departments.

### Measures:

- Contribute to establishing a case-based 300-level course, the responsibility for which will rotate each year between the departments (assess whether this can be coordinated with the Master's in Landscape Architecture for Global Sustainability)

c) The Department will contribute to large-scale joint initiatives supported by the Faculty.

### Measures:

- Participate in the development and integration of interdisciplinarity in courses/programmes at NMBU
- Contribute to continuing the provision of a writing course for scientific staff

### 3. LIFE-LONG LEARNING

a) The Department will be a driver in disseminating new knowledge with a clear and visible profile that addresses current issues with a forward-looking perspective.

**Measures:**

- The Department will continuously develop and provide further education courses in cooperation with the Centre for Further Education (SEVU) and academic partners

b) The Department will strengthen cooperation with its PhD alumni.

**Measures:**

- Be a driving force in relation to the public and private sectors for developing research fields and establishing PhD- and post-doctoral positions

c) The Department will be an academic hub.

**Measures:**

- The Department will have interdisciplinary cooperation on academic development, with joint guest lectures for the Faculty of Landscape and Society

## 4. LIFE AT THE FACULTY

a) The Department will contribute to ensuring a good social and academic environment at the Faculty.

### Measures:

- Organise topical lunch meetings
- Facilitate informal meeting places in all its buildings, including the NMBU Norwegian Landscape Laboratory
- Plan good meeting places during the renovation/construction/moving periods at the Faculty

b) The Department will support good environmental choices.

### Measures:

- Discuss alternatives to travel and environmentally-aware means of travelling

c) The Department will promote a good working environment by activating the NMBU Norwegian Landscape Laboratory to create a pleasant environment at the Faculty.

### Measures:

- Organise 'walk and talk' meetings
- Facilitate teaching and meetings outdoors on campus