

A UNIVERSITY THAT CHANGES THE WORLD



UNIVERSITY WEST



HÖGSKOLA

WE CREATE KNOWLEDGE TOGETHER!

” *Can a university change the world for the better? The answer is undoubtedly yes! However, the great social challenges of our time are both complex and global. They require us to combine regional and international perspectives in education and research. They require us, as an academic institution, to contribute with scientific expertise and to work across borders. They require us to create knowledge in collaboration. This is the foundation of our profile and concept Work Integrated Learning. In this way, University West is a game changer within academia.”*

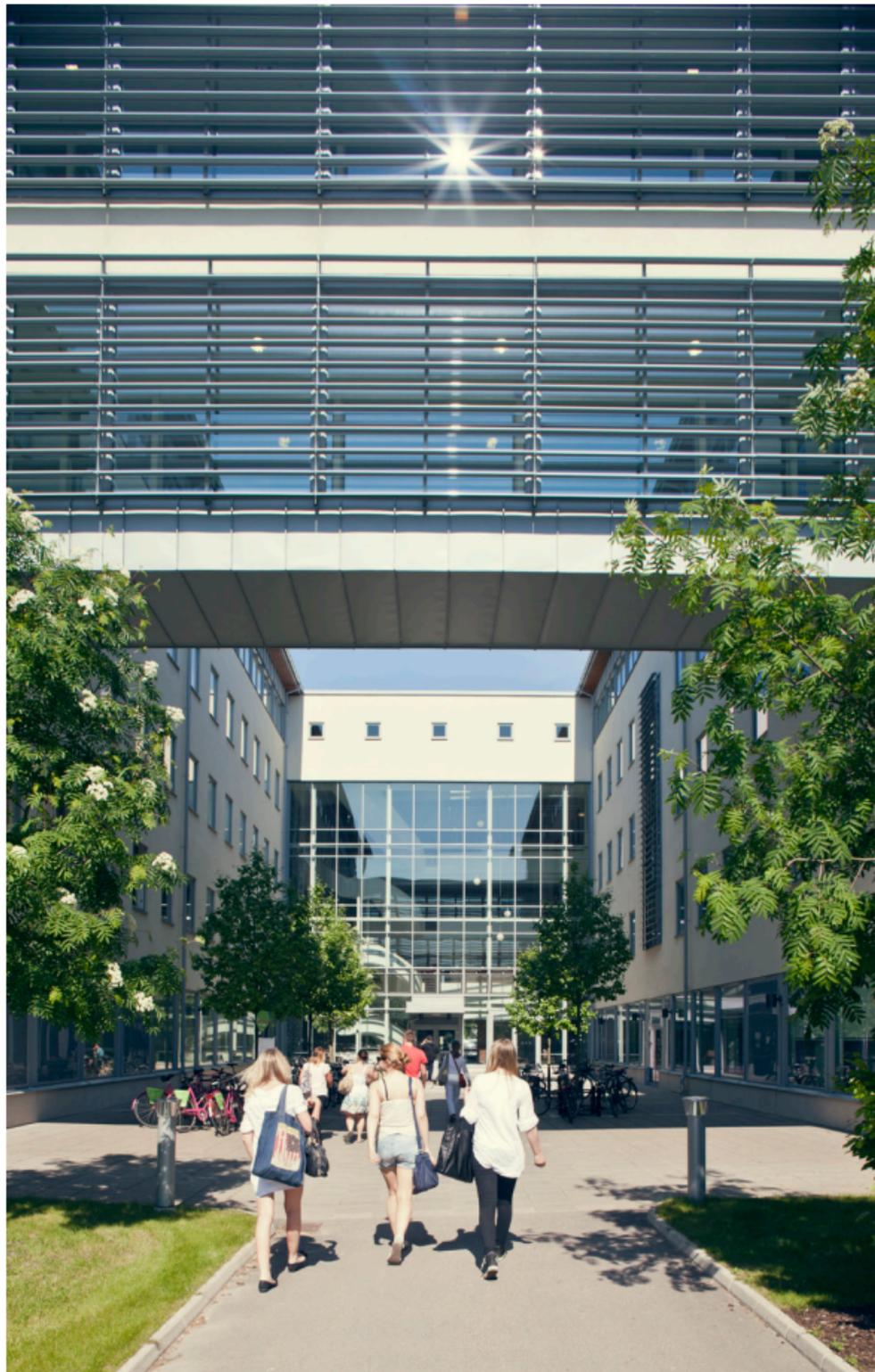
Martin Hellström, Vice-Chancellor



HERE, AN ACADEMIC EDUCATION IS NOT HEREDITARY

Sweden has not succeeded in breaking the pattern of socially skewed university recruitment. Those who come from a family with an academic education have double the chances of studying at university – a figure that has remained constant for many years. University West is bucking this trend, and is Sweden's top university in terms of recruiting students from backgrounds without a tradition of higher education. Together, we have also succeeded in gradually raising the level of education in our region in recent years.





OUR STUDENTS GO TO WORK

For most students, the aim of their studies is to get a job within their field of study. University West is one of the best in Sweden when it comes to students' employment rates, according to measurements from the Swedish Higher Education Authority. A full 83.3 percent of our students are established in the labour market one year after graduating, putting us comfortably above the national average. Our pedagogical profile of Work Integrated Learning also boosts students' chances of making valuable contacts during their studies, and gives them valuable work experience.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Despite being a smaller educational institution, we carry out world-class research – almost always in collaboration with other players. This is true not least within three vital research environments:

- **Production Technology West** – carrying out cutting-edge research in a unique lab environment in close cooperation with industry.
- **Child and Youth Studies** – the university's newest and strongly growing research environment, based on the child as an actor.
- **Learning in and for the New Working Life** – focus on fields such as the digitisation of working life.

The new initiative Primus combines research in Production Technology with research in Learning in working life. One of the core areas is Industrial Work Integrated Learning (I-WIL).

In a way, we are generating profit for "Sweden Inc". With relatively little funding – University West receives just 0.28 percent of Sweden's total research grants – we are succeeding in gearing up our resources. For every krona our researchers receive in state funding, they are able to secure 1.2 kronor in external financing.



WITH INTEGRATION AND DEMOCRACY AT THE FOREFRONT

We are strongly involved in integration for new arrivals, including by offering work experience places and by working together with Support Group Network, an organisation formed by asylum seekers at Sweden's biggest asylum accommodation centre, Restad Gård. We were quick to understand the importance of helping our students to become active citizens within democratic society. Today, we are a recognised driving force for humanism, democracy and diversity. Knowledge development, building citizenship and life-long learning are the tools we use to achieve this. University West arranges many open debates and lectures on different themes.

University West is also a member of Scholars at Risk, which works to promote academic freedom around the world by offering protection to researchers who cannot work in their home countries.



DID YOU KNOW THAT UNIVERSITY WEST HAS :

- 12,000 students
- 580 employees (researchers, teaching staff and administrative staff)
- Four departments and six centres of expertise
- Three vital research environments and the KK-environment Primus
- A commission from the Swedish Government to develop Work Integrated Learning (WIL)
- Unique third-cycle education within the field of WIL
- 60 professors
- 57 of its own doctoral students, of which one third are employed in industry
- One of Sweden's highest numbers of applicants per place
- 23 programmes at first-cycle level, 17 programmes at second-cycle level and around 200 courses



” *University West is a driving force within society, working together with the surrounding community to create knowledge and to make this knowledge accessible to a wider audience. We call this Work Integrated Learning.*”



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