Development plan of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities until 2022

Approved by Resolution 38 of the Faculty Council on 28 September 2016

The development plan of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is based on the development plan of the University of Tartu until 2020 and is integrated with it. The development plan delineates the most essential goals of the Faculty for realisation of the University development plan and designates the main trends of research and development for the Faculty, considering the focuses of research, development and innovation in the University.

1. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the world and in Estonia

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
1.1 is a broad-based high-level competence centre of the humanities in the Baltic Sea region, Europe and the world;
1.2. is a centre of excellence in research and teaching of ethnonational research disciplines (the Estonian language, history and culture of Estonia and its peoples), which is open for cooperation within Estonia and internationally;
1.3. develops interdisciplinarity of research and teaching and creativity, striving for integrity of knowledge and multiplicity of disciplines;
1.4. participates actively in international networks, creating a basis for a dialogue with other cultures and cooperating for the solution of global problems;
1.5. increases the international academic mobility of students and staff.
1.6. initiates research and public discussion on themes significant for the Estonian society and participates in shaping the Estonian policies of language, culture, education and research;
1.7. has a leading role in the discussion on common Estonian and European values and fosters knowledge-based, polite and involving discussion culture.
1.8. contributes to the cultural cohesion and sustainability of the Estonian society.

2. Development of lifelong learning

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
2.1. in cooperation with students, develops the existing curricula and, if necessary, creates new ones;
2.2. is responsible for language teaching in the whole University;
2.3. is responsible for teacher training in the specialities taught by the Faculty and participates in the development of teacher training in the University;
2.4. improves the quality of teaching by diversifying the forms and methods of teaching and by closer connection between the staff members’ research activities and teaching.
2.5. creates new forms of continuing education by increasing the integration of degree studies, continuing education and lifelong learning;
2.6. supports the development of teaching and supervisory skills of the academic staff and the learning skills of the students, develops transferable skills, including digital competences, of both students and staff members;
2.7. attaches equal significance to teaching and research and, in art specialities, to creative work, considering this in recruiting of staff, in providing opportunities for career and upgrading of qualifications, and in assessment of efficiency of work;
2.8. improves the efficiency of doctoral studies by enhancing the arrangement of doctoral studies and the teaching and study process (including the activities of doctoral schools);
2.9. enhances cooperation with schools to develop the teaching of the humanities and arts;
2.10. fosters students’ individual and social development by supporting the formation of general competences, creativity and artistic self-expression, and involving students in professional activities;
2.11. develops different forms of traineeship and involves practitioners in teaching.

3. Development of entrepreneurship

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
3.1. shapes an entrepreneurial attitude in students and staff and develops innovative thinking;
3.2. enables students to develop general and special entrepreneurial competences according to their needs and interests;
3.3. in the selection of themes for students’ research papers, considers the interests of enterprises and the society and supports supervision of research in cooperation with enterprises;
3.4. develops beneficial partnerships with students’ potential employers;
3.5. encourages entrepreneurs to use more actively the research infrastructure of the University, the opportunities for degree degree studies and continuing education, and the knowledge and skills of the academic staff.
3.6. popularises the humanities and arts in the society; uses different forms of cooperation to increase the interest and awareness of the public and entrepreneurs about the activities of the Faculty.

4. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the University

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
4.1. increases the motivation and security of the staff through transparent and efficiency-oriented staff policy;
4.2. develops strategic management at the level of both the Faculty and the institutes;
4.3. encourages the staff and students to participate in goal setting, planning and decision making, and provides effective feedback.
4.4. develops the intellectual community by improving internal communication and arranging joint events;
4.5. guarantees equal opportunities for the staff and supports young staff members’ progress in career;
4.6. by taking the necessary measures, supports the growth of international visibility of the Faculty;
4.7. cooperates with other faculties, relying on the principle of universitas and the best competences.
4.8. facilitates joint use of infrastructure within the University and provides complex services to interested parties outside the University;
4.9. develops organisational culture and good academic practises, and supports diminishing of needless bureaucracy.
5. Development of focal areas in research, development and innovation

The main focus of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is “Sustainability of national culture in the open world” (subfocuses “Sustainability of the Estonian language and culture and cultural diversity” and „Material and spiritual heritage“).

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
5.1. is engaged in linguistic and cultural research and arts and the related applied research following the subfocus “Sustainability of the Estonian language and culture and cultural diversity”;
5.2 is engaged in appreciation, preservation and mediation of historical and cultural heritage following the subfocus “Material and spiritual heritage”;
5.3. develops the Estonian scientific terminology in cooperation with all the specialities of the University;
5.4. contributes to the drafting of regional policy of Estonia by strengthening the Viljandi college as a centre of regional development and cooperation;
5.5. deals with research of the Estonian and Finno-Ugric languages and cultures;
5.6. deals with research of the European languages and cultures with special attention to the Baltic Sea region;
5.7. deals with research of Asian languages, cultures and religions and leads the cooperation in Asian studies in the University;
5.8. is engaged in research in philosophy, semiotics and theology, and deals with methodological questions of the humanities;
5.9. deals with research in language and cultural dynamics of the society and cognitive sign processes, value development, analysis of moral, political and religious disagreements and promotion of creative entrepreneurship, following the focus “Enterprising and socially responsible society”;
5.10. deals with medical ethics and linguistic and social competences necessary for medicine, interpreting the essence of human life and peoples’ role in culture and nature, following the focus “Being healthy and active until the old age”;  
5.11. is engaged in research of cultural prerequisites and influence of new technologies and resources, and development of archaeology in cooperation with natural scientists, following the focus “Resources and technologies for environmentally sustainable economic growth”;
5.12. deals with the opportunities and threats of information and communication technology and problems of data protection, and areas of cooperation between ICT and the humanities (digital humanities, etc.), following the focus “Information and communication technology for advancement of the innovative society”.