

Education

Education

Graduates for the future labour market

Development of research talents and integration of research into education

Collaboration

Collaboration

Research

Research

Cross-disciplinary research to solve societal challenges

Research of the highest international quality

Research contribution to the development and welfare of society

Research
Education
Collaboration

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY STRATEGY



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



STRATEGY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

At the Department of Physics and Astronomy (IFA) at Aarhus University, we have two primary tasks that everyone at the department – both scientific and technical-administrative staff – contribute to: generating new knowledge and educating students to the highest international level. Through new knowledge and education IFA creates value for citizens, companies and society.

RESEARCH OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL QUALITY

National and international networks, collaboration, niche areas and existing strengths

We will maintain our high level of national and international collaboration and networks by continuing to assert ourselves in national and international research groups and facilities.

Continued top-class infrastructure and research-supporting facilities

We will maintain our efficient local administrative and technical infrastructures. Ongoing development of research-supporting facilities will be a focal point.

Larger shares of funding

Considering the need for academic breadth, we will take into account the research areas in which it is possible to attract significant funding, also from private foundations. We will provide input for the formulation of foundation's funding programmes.

Good working environment, synergy within recruitment

We aim to recruit people that can create synergy by, for example, connecting two or more researchers together professionally, which is also expected to contribute positively to the working environment at IFA. In addition to new synergy-generating employment, it is also our strategy to encourage greater collaboration between the groups.



Photo: Mads Fredslund Andersen, AU

RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL QUALITY

Educational programmes based on strong academic environments

We will ensure teaching at the highest level in all relevant academic disciplines by attracting academic staff who can teach broadly within physics and astronomy.



Photo: Lars Kruse, AU foto

Gender equality and diversity in recruitment and permanent positions

The focus is on a greater degree of diversity in the permanent academic staff, including a larger proportion of women in permanent academic positions as a strategic goal. It is our aim that after a period of some years the proportion of women among permanent academic staff will match the proportion of women enrolled as students. It is our aim to sustain the existing share of approximately one third foreign researchers, as this provides new input for both research and education.

Good work and study environment

We will have an increased focus on the culture at IFA, in order to stimulate an even better work environment and the strengthening of team spirit. We will focus on transparency in the decisions made by the management. We will focus on development potential for everyone. We will prioritise a good study environment, partly through good physical surroundings, and partly through a good collaboration with the students, celebrating successes, maintaining effective communication, ensuring a positive dialogue when there are challenges, and recognition of work performance. The students should be encouraged to, and be recognised for daring to, ask questions and making mistakes, to learn from mistakes, and be stimulated to become independent and obtain a general education. In this connection, central key words from [Aarhus University's strategy](#) for IFA are the general competencies: creativity, independence and collaborative skills, as well as focus on sustainability, digitalisation, technology understanding and entrepreneurship.



Photo: Søren Kjeldgaard

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF SOCIETY

Societal relevance, strengthened business collaboration and having a view of the UN sustainability goals

We want to strengthen our contribution to and collaboration with the business community; contribute to ensuring that the UN's sustainability goals can be achieved, particularly in the fields of energy, climate, health and innovation and, in general, contribute to creating value for citizens, companies and society as a whole.

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TO SOLVE SOCIETAL CHALLENGES



Photo: Lars Kruse, AU foto

Sustainability, digitalisation, technology understanding and entrepreneurship

We will continue to focus on sustainability, both within the Department's use of resources and within topics covered by the degree programme. We will strengthen entrepreneurship and technology understanding.

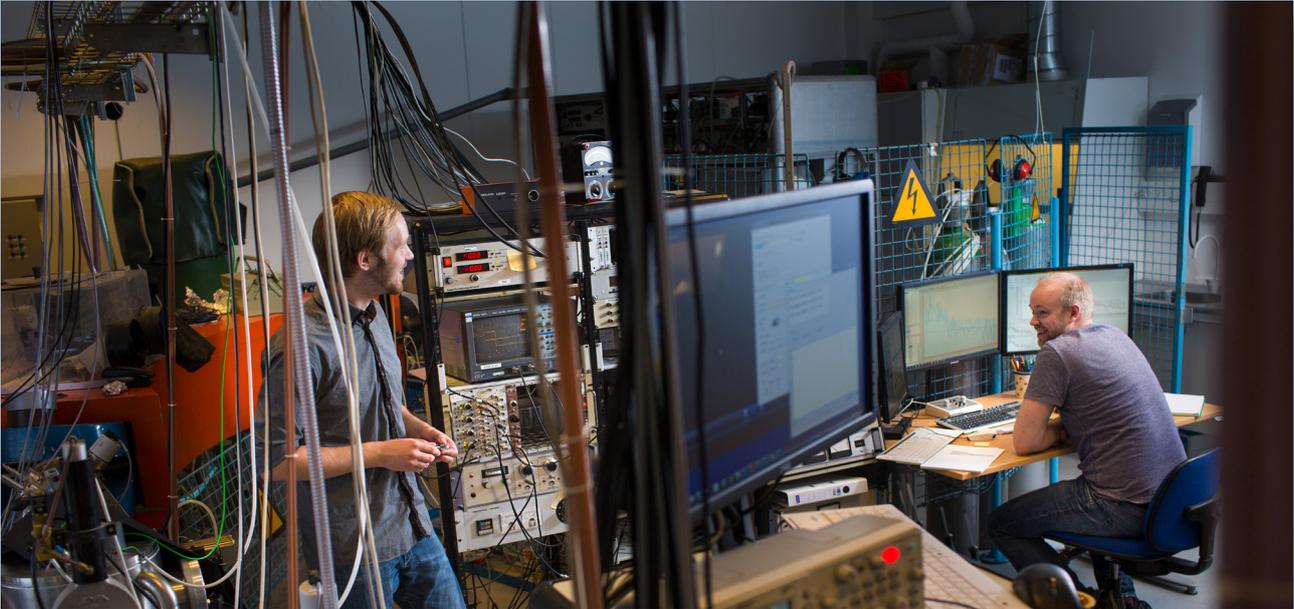


Photo: Lars Kruse, AU foto

Basic research and applications

Basic research will continue to be the driving force at IFA. At the same time, opportunities should be explored for applications, e.g. in collaboration with engineers or other departments in the Natural and Technical Science faculties.

GRADUATES FOR THE FUTURE LABOUR MARKET

Education of students at all levels

We will maintain a high level of the education programme at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level and thereby continue to give our students the best possible conditions for a good career in either the business community or public sector, both nationally and internationally. A graduate from IFA must continue to be able to make themselves well-noticed internationally and be part of the competition for coveted positions. We have set an ambitious goal of reducing the total drop-out rate to less than 20%, and for any unavoidable dropouts to take place at an early stage and for the right reasons.



Photo: Marjun Danielsen, AU foto

Competencies

We will focus on progression in the educational programme and the general competencies it leads to, e.g. creativity, independence, interpersonal skills and education. We will focus on competencies in relation to the wishes of the employing institutions and the labour market.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH TALENTS AND INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH INTO EDUCATION

Integration of research in the educational programmes at IFA

IFA will maintain the high level of integration of research into study programmes.

All students at IFA will continue to meet active researchers with international impact from the very first day. We will focus on supervision tasks and an 'open door' policy, where the students are invited to interact with the staff.

Education/talent development as a skill for academic staff

A significant emphasis will be placed on applicants' competencies within education and talent development in the recruitment of future positions. At the same time, there will be an increased focus on ensuring that young talent at IFA can acquire qualifications in the field of education, a competence that can be used nationally and internationally, both within and outside the academic world. We see it as a strategic goal to ensure ongoing qualification of teaching skills, and we will encourage continued training of the technical-administrative staff, who also make a significant contribution to both research and research-based education.



Photo: Lars Kruse, AU foto

As an outcome of an external evaluation of IFA in spring 2019, the external panel's report to the head of department said that IFAs research is assessed as world leading/excellent or very good (grades 5 or 4 on a scale from 1 to 5), depending on the field.