

Faculty Board of Law

The Faculty of Law's Action Plan for Research and Third-Cycle Education 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2024

The Faculty of Law's Strategic Plan covers the period 2018-2026 and builds upon the Lund University Strategic Plan for the same period. The faculty's Strategic Plan is complemented by three-year action plans of a more operative nature with clearly expressed goals and measures that can be followed-up. These cover action plans for education, research and third-cycle education, external engagement, talent provision, work environment and equal opportunities. Qualified, appropriate and effective infrastructure and administrative services are to be in place for education, research and external engagement. The faculty is also to work proactively and systematically on issues relating to work environment, gender equality and equal opportunities in all activities relating to students and staff. The action plans, decided by the Faculty Board, are to be followed up annually.

Introduction

According to the Faculty of Law's Strategic Plan (2018-2026), education and research are to be intertwined. Research and education is to strive for the highest quality and be ethically supported. Furthermore, research and education at third-cycle level are to continue to be characterised by internationalisation, boundary-crossing external engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Through research and third-cycle education – which are closely interlinked – the Faculty of Law aims not only to contribute to knowledge of the development, content and application of the law, but also to shed light on the role of law, jurisprudence and lawyers in society. The Faculty of Law is to take a great deal of social responsibility and address national and global challenges in areas such as demographic change, digitalisation, peace and security, sustainable development, health and welfare, migration, environment and climate, and human rights.

Over the period 2019-2021, a comprehensive evaluation of the legal research produced at Lund University was carried out (RQ20). This has come to characterise new initiatives in the field of law for the Faculty of Law. Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor decided in 2021 that Lund University will apply nationally for five interdisciplinary profile areas in 2023, of which it has since been decided that the Faculty of Law will participate in two of them. The Government's decision that profile areas will guide part of research funding will affect the research landscape at the University in the coming years. Funding for the profile areas comes partly from Lund University centrally and is partly expected to come from external donors. The initiative also entails strategic investments at the faculty in terms of the profile areas in which the faculty is participating.

From 2019-2020, the faculty's third-cycle education was evaluated as a result of the University's policy and regulations for quality assurance and quality enhancement of education. The Action Plan is divided into two main parts: a first part on research and a second part on third-cycle education.

Research

Over the period 2022-2025, the Faculty of Law will work in particular on the following areas: 1) the intertwining of education and research; 2) internationalisation; 3) boundary-crossing external engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration; 4) external funding; 5) research communication; and 6) quality assurance and follow-up of RQ20.

These six areas are specified below, and within each area the work planned is linked to goals and measures that can be followed-up.

Area 1: Intertwining of education and research

The Faculty of Law's Strategic Plan (2018-2026) states that all education is to be research-based. It also states that education and research shall be intertwined in learning environments dedicated to both teaching and research, where qualifications in education and research are equally valued.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law is to:

- work to ensure that research and education are mutually enriching, for example by ensuring that new research inspires the development of existing education and the creation of new courses, and that current research is integrated into teaching at the faculty.
- ensure that the link between education and research takes place early in the education process, and then continuously throughout the law degree programme and Master's programmes.
- develop efforts to highlight research and third-cycle education in teaching, for example by including elements of disciplinary rectitude and research ethics in teaching, by integrating jurisprudence literature into course bibliographies or by disseminating information about third-cycle education and encouraging students to apply for a doctoral studentship.
- In line with the recommendations made in RQ20, explore opportunities to free up time for teaching staff to conduct research.

Area 2: Internationalisation

Law, the legal system, legal education and jurisprudence are subject to extensive internationalisation. The Faculty of Law's Strategic Plan highlights internationalisation as a priority area. The Strategic Plan states that research and third-cycle education is to be characterised by internationalisation. The organisation is to have an international perspective in terms of both in the faculty's encounters and the way it is perceived. There are to be good opportunities for international mobility, and the faculty is to be attractive and inclusive for international employees. The faculty is also to have strategically-anchored international collaborations, such as through participation in leading international networks. The University's activities are based on academic values, such as autonomy, academic freedom, openness and transparency. Internationalisation

aims to increase the quality of research, but is also a goal and has academic value in and of itself.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law is to:

- actively participate in the wider internationalisation initiatives at Lund University.
- ensure good opportunities for international mobility for researchers at the faculty.
- stimulate collaborative initiatives within the framework of international networks, such as LERU and U21, which in turn may lead to joint research applications and/or joint courses.
- encourage research environments to strengthen their respective international profiles.
- further develop a new research incentive programme, offering researchers both time and other support to publish more of their research in high-profile, peer-reviewed international forums.
- further professionalise the faculty's guest researcher programme.

Area 3: Boundary-crossing external-engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration

As stated in the Strategic Plan, the Faculty of Law is to pursue boundary-crossing external engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration of the highest national and international quality. The ability to mobilise powerful research constellations is a hallmark of Lund University and constitutes a strong success factor in the competition for external research funding. One effect of the RQ20 evaluation was that the faculty continues to work on the development and deepening of interdisciplinary research. The Faculty of Law is therefore to take advantage of the University's unique disciplinary breadth as part of ensuring the highest quality of research is achieved. Active collaboration within Lund University should therefore be prioritised, especially in relation to the work within the profile areas, but also in other interdisciplinary constellations. Cooperation with other higher education institutions is also to be encouraged, as is active external engagement with, for example, legal institutions, the public sector, industry, civil society and alumni.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law is to:

- actively support its researchers in building up and developing the jurisprudence elements of the profile areas in which the faculty is participating, as well as actively contribute to providing good conditions for researchers to participate in interdisciplinary cooperation in the relevant profile areas at LU.
- encourage its researchers to use their expertise in interdisciplinary collaborations, as well as encourage the faculty's researchers to use boundary-crossing approaches in addition to jurisprudential approaches in research, research applications and research collaborations.
- encourage faculty researchers to broaden their expertise beyond the field of law. Such professional development is important for cooperation to function in the best possible way.

- encourage researchers to participate in various collaboration and external engagement initiatives.
- develop external engagement with the wider society to increase the impact of research in various ways (see also the Faculty of Law's Action Plan for External Engagement 2022-2025), such as with the Swedish Institute for Human Rights.
- strive to include legal institutions, the public sector, industry, civil society and alumni in the faculty's research activities.
- promote the use of various types of combined employment.
- actively participate in Lund University's graduate school on sustainable development and Agenda 2030, as well as in calls for university-wide funding with a focus on Agenda 2030 and sustainable development.

Area 4: External funding

External research funding is essential in order for the faculty to conduct research of the highest quality. The RQ20 research evaluation stressed the importance of researchers at the faculty also seeking funding offered through the EU Framework Programmes. It is therefore important that the Faculty of Law not only encourages its researchers to seek external research funding, nationally and internationally, but also actively supports them in the preparation of their applications. There are good opportunities to further improve and increase the number of research applications through the special research support offered at the faculty in the form of a grant manager.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law is to:

- further develop support to researchers when applying for external funding, with a certain emphasis on EU applications and applications within the profile areas framework.
- continue to develop, and where necessary evaluate, the faculty's existing administrative support in this area.
- develop the possibility of using senior researchers to give feedback on applications and draft applications.
- encourage the faculty's researchers to explore the possibility of collaboration with researchers from other departments and higher education institutions.
- take advantage of the faculty's visiting researchers and their expertise in research applications.
- develop fundraising under the guidance of the dean and the faculty management, and in collaboration with the Development Office.

Area 5: Research communication

Research communication in its broad sense is an important factor in making research visible at both the individual and faculty levels. By ensuring that the faculty's research results are of high quality, relevant to society and newsworthy, they contribute to the visibility of the faculty and its profile nationally and internationally. It is also important that individual researchers are able to communicate their research effectively and efficiently, for example to gain

qualifications to develop their careers and contribute to the development of society. Systematic promotion of open science, such as the management of research data and efforts to increase open publishing, is key.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law is to:

- with the support of the faculty's research communications officer and library, develop the faculty's work with, and support for, research communication, including by making maximum use of the University's information systems, and by further developing web pages and the use of social media and other information channels.
- take advantage of the faculty's research communications officer to reinforce the visibility of current research and to establish strategies for research communication.
- ensure that information on research conducted at the faculty (especially publications) is available and searchable in the Lund University research database (LUCRIS).
- encourage active research teams to use the University's websites, social media and other information channels to disseminate relevant research information.
- with the support of the library, continuously monitor developments in the field of open science and encourage the dissemination of knowledge and open publishing by the faculty's researchers.
- with the support of the library, ensure compliance with internal and external requirements for the management of research data.
- encourage the design of incentive structures that lead to career development and the further development of incentives that promote open science.
- encourage research communication to a wider audience through various national and international information channels.
- continuously monitor the development of the University's and the faculty's international rankings.
- encourage researchers to be an active part of the national and international research community by participating in the publication of scientific journals and other methods of disseminating jurisprudence research.

Area 6: Quality assurance and following up on RQ20

According to the Faculty of Law's Strategic Plan, research is to be ethically supported and of the highest quality. From 2019-2021, Lund University conducted an evaluation of the University's research, with very good results. The Faculty of Law has identified different goals adapted to the faculty's specific activities for the further development of quality assurance in accordance with RQ20. These are:

- to undertake a comprehensive review of the strategic and practical research organisation and structure at the faculty, including the organisation of research teams and research environments.
- to continue to develop the recruitment processes for all academic positions in accordance with the Talent Management Plan and the Appointment

Rules, as well as the possibility of processes for promotions to senior lecturer and professor. In this way, the need for employees with research and teaching expertise, knowledge of Swedish law and with international experience can be properly met.

- to continue working on the career development of researchers.
- to create realistic research opportunities for all academic staff at the faculty.
- to apply systematically and comprehensively for funding offered by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme.
- to continue working to develop and deepen interdisciplinary research.
- to identify and, where necessary, strengthen, further develop and systematise the faculty's research infrastructure, which may include harnessing and expanding collaboration with university-wide administrative services.
- to continue to work towards a high number of publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Actions implemented so far are:

- the hiring of a grant manager and a research communications officer.
- the introduction of an assignment as assistant head of department with specific responsibility for the career development of postdocs and associate senior lecturers.
- work with LUCRIS to give visibility to research teams at the faculty.
- calls for applications and the establishment of special initiatives in strong research areas.

The Faculty of Law is to ensure that the actions decided and implemented so far promote the goals set for the implementation of RQ20 by:

- analysing annually the need for further action.
- holding ongoing dialogues with researchers at the faculty to obtain feedback on initiatives, both those already implemented and those that researchers believe should be implemented in the future.
- support the research communications officer and grant manager as needed.
- periodically highlight the impact of the initiatives and, if necessary, take further measures to achieve the goals above.

Ethics in research is an important part of well-conducted research. An important part of this is the completion of an ethical review when required. The Faculty of Law shall therefore

- continue to develop information and other support structures for the preparation of ethical review applications.
- actively work to combat misconduct in research.

Third-cycle education

Third-cycle education is to be of the highest quality. The development of this education is to be carried out in harmony with the national and international research community and the development needs of the faculty. The programme is characterised by an international learning environment, where English is the main language but where non-native Swedish-speaking doctoral students are offered training in the Swedish language, which improves opportunities for a career within the University and provides broadened teaching expertise for the individual doctoral student. Supervision of doctoral students has a central function in third-cycle education and must be of high quality.

Third-cycle education at the faculty is one of several recruitment bases for teachers and researchers. The aim of third-cycle education is also to supply staff with research expertise to other higher education institutions, within and outside Sweden, as well as to other community stakeholders.

Evaluations are a central part of the ongoing work to achieve the overall aim of reaching the highest quality in third-cycle education. In addition to frequent external evaluations, ongoing evaluation of courses is carried out with the help of doctoral students.

The faculty is to endeavour to offer doctoral students courses that satisfy their interest in both broadening and deepening their knowledge in relation to their thesis topic. During the plan's period, the Faculty of Law is to continue to be an active part of Lund University's joint and interdisciplinary graduate school focused on sustainable development and Agenda 2030.

The third-cycle education organisation at the Faculty of Law is to continue to include continuous exchanges of knowledge and collaboration with other third-cycle programmes in law within and outside Sweden as well as through established university-wide collaborations such as LERU.

During the period 2022-2025, based on the above, the Committee on Doctoral Education is to strive for the highest quality in third-cycle education within the framework of the faculty's research environment, in collaboration with third-cycle supervisors and with a particular focus on the following areas:

Area 1: Recruitment

Recruitment pool for third-cycle education

A good and steady flow of new doctoral students is an essential part of the faculty's talent provision for first and second-cycle education and research, and strengthens the faculty's attractiveness, nationally and internationally, to potential students, teaching staff and researchers. It is essential to recruit those who are best able to benefit from the education. Finding these candidates requires the broadest possible recruitment base, but also an efficient and fair recruitment process.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is therefore, through collaboration between the directors of studies for third-cycle education and first and second-cycle education respectively to:

- continue to develop the law degree programme and Master's programmes with various activities relating to research. This should be done early and in connection with Bachelor's essay and Master's thesis writing, in order to spread knowledge about the programme and to stimulate as many qualified candidates as possible to apply for a doctoral studentship.

- continue to advertise doctoral studentships – both general and subject-specific – in open competition with a view to attracting prospective doctoral students from other higher education institutions within and outside the country, and identify appropriate channels to disseminate information on available doctoral studentships.
- be a dialogue partner to the Faculty Board regarding the scope and focus of doctoral studentships.
- streamline the recruitment process without losing fairness and broad relevance.

Externally-funded doctoral studentships

The responsibility for applying for external funding for doctoral studentships lies with the senior researchers. As a rule, doctoral studentships are advertised twice a year (normally at least one general doctoral studentship is advertised in the spring semester and at least one targeted doctoral studentship is advertised in the autumn semester). The Board may, where necessary, make exceptions to this principle in order to achieve a purposeful recruitment process to support senior researchers who have received external funding for doctoral studentships. A broad and high-quality recruitment pool should also be sought for externally-funded doctoral studentships.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is to

- initiate a broad discussion on how external funding is handled in various respects, for example in connection with the recruitment process, during thesis writing and in connection with supervision.
- decide without undue delay on the admission of externally-funded doctoral students or the date for the announcement of externally-funded doctoral studentships. Such a decision shall be taken in accordance with a timetable which takes particular account of contractual commitments in relation to external funders and in accordance with the requirements set out in the syllabus.
- ensure that person specifications are designed to maximise the recruitment pool and enable applicants to formulate independent project descriptions.

Area 2: Course activities

The faculty's compulsory course activities are to be continuously developed

In addition to writing a thesis, the third-cycle programme includes one course component that should satisfy the student's interest in achieving both breadth and depth in relation to their thesis topic and their ability to place their thesis in a broader jurisprudential and academic context.

This course component in the third-cycle programme is to develop the doctoral students' academic creativity, ability to ask academic questions and apply scientific methods.

The courses are to address the possibilities, limitations and challenges of academia and jurisprudence. Key theories and approaches in jurisprudence research are also covered.

Doctoral courses are offered at the faculty but can also be taken externally at other universities within and outside Sweden.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is to:

- identify points where interaction between courses can be developed in a way that further contributes to doctoral students achieving the learning outcomes of a doctoral degree as set out in the Higher Education Ordinance.
- examine whether the proportion of courses in the programme should be increased in order to complement the current broadening of jurisprudence expertise, with a focus on subject-specific depth. The possibility of collaboration with other relevant higher education institutions on courses is also being explored.
- remain open to the inclusion of external seminar leaders.
- ensure that all faculty doctoral students acquire relevant knowledge and skills in conducting research in an ethical manner through participation in the mandatory ethics course, and consider the introduction of plagiarism checks.

Progress in thesis is to be secured

Doctoral students have three compulsory seminars during their education (introductory seminar, midway seminar and a final seminar). The seminars are one of several ways to follow up, evaluate and plan thesis work in relation to the timetable set out in the individual study plan. They are designed to support the doctoral student to ensure progression in their thesis so that the learning outcomes set out in the Higher Education Ordinance are met. They are also important opportunities for fellow doctoral students and the faculty in general to provide constructive feedback on the project.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is therefore to

- ensure, through clear instructions and routine preparations for the introductory, midway and final seminars, that the seminars function as a means of monitoring, evaluating and planning work on the thesis, and create the best possible conditions for constructive feedback during the seminars.

Area 3: Supervision

Two supervisors are to be appointed at the time of admission to the programme. The principle has been that both supervisors should be employed by the faculty. However, in order to ensure high-quality supervision is provided, it may sometimes be necessary to recruit external supervisors. Supervision is a long-term assignment and both supervisors are to have the time, knowledge, experience and dedication to provide the thesis work with sufficient support. The Committee on Doctoral Education organises supervisor seminars with internal or external seminar leaders, as well as regular meetings between the faculty's teaching staff and researchers who act as supervisors in which they may discuss and reflect on the experiences that can come from the supervisory role.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is to:

- review procedures and principles for the appointment of supervisors, such as the appointment of external supervisors.

Area 4: Continued career

Support is already provided for academic career-development positions, professional development and career development as part of third-cycle education.

The support covers not only the development of qualifications for an academic career but also for work outside academia.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is to

- ensure that introduction meetings, annual appraisals and final career planning meetings are held with doctoral students.
- review strategic issues such as the role and functioning of third-cycle education in jurisprudence, legal innovation and outreach activities.