

# Educational profile of Aalborg University

The educational profile of Aalborg University (AAU) describes the qualities that define AAU's degree programmes and characterise AAU graduates. The educational profile is the foundation that ensures quality in the university's degree programmes.

## About AAU's degree programmes

### **PROBLEM-BASED PROJECT WORK**

AAU's degree programmes are characterised by problem-based project work. This means that real-life problems are the starting point for the learning process where students are examining, analysing, understanding and solving authentic and complex issues. In problem-based work, the students apply the theories and methods of their specific discipline to the problem generating new knowledge and translating this knowledge into practice in the process. This problem-based approach to education creates knowledge that makes a difference and changes the world in a more sustainable direction.

### **RESEARCH-BASED TEACHING**

AAU's degree programmes are characterised by research-based teaching and supervision. This means that AAU's degree programmes reflect a clear coherence between the disciplines and the lecturers' research. The students participate in relevant research-based teaching and supervision from solid research environments, and through project work, they have the opportunity to collaborate directly with the research environments and participate in research projects.

Research-based teaching and supervision ensure that students obtain the latest knowledge at the highest level based on the latest didactic knowledge on participatory learning processes.

### **COLLABORATION**

AAU's degree programmes are characterised by wide-ranging collaboration. The students learn and work together in project groups. They have close relationships with the programme lecturers, and they often collaborate with organisations outside the university.

Working in project groups means that during their time at the university, the students exchange knowledge, engage in academic discussions, provide mutual feedback and participate in collective decision processes. They are part of an academic and social community and learn how to collaborate.

The close relationship with external partners in both the public and private sectors means that lecturers and students are directly involved in relevant practical and professional issues. This is achieved through problem-based project collaboration with companies and public organisations or through project-oriented courses.

In their collaboration with companies and public organisations, the students gain experience in how companies and organisations develop and change. Simultaneously, they experience how the specific issue they are working with is part of the partner's daily activities. The collaboration is an important bridge builder between degree programmes and companies.

### **STUDENTS AT THE CENTRE OF LEARNING**

AAU's degree programmes are characterised by learning processes grounded in the students' active participation and involvement. This means that the students create and acquire knowledge through an active, student-centred learning process. Through the teaching activities and in their choice of projects, the students have significant influence on the knowledge they acquire and the problems they address as part of their studies.

Through the problem-based project work, the academic material becomes meaningful for the students, their commitment increases, and they take responsibility for their own learning. Project organisation means that the students independently manage and organise their project work.

## About AAU graduates

AAU graduates are characterised by...

### **BEING ABLE TO WORK IN A PROBLEM-ORIENTED MANNER**

AAU graduates have the skills to independently identify, analyse, formulate and discuss current, authentic problems in an exemplary manner. This means that they are capable of applying theory and methods to navigate and solve complex problems. Furthermore, they can generalise their knowledge and skills to address similar issues in new contexts.

### **BEING ACADEMICALLY STRONG**

AAU graduates have the academic insight and skills to integrate disciplinary knowledge with the solving of complex issues. They think and act critically and make informed decisions based on scientific knowledge. This means that they can independently translate new knowledge into practice and find new ways and solutions. They also have the skills to formulate and communicate academic material both in speech and writing.

### **BEING ABLE TO COLLABORATE**

AAU graduates have the skills to share, apply and develop their knowledge in conjunction with other people's knowledge and skills. This means that they are able to work towards a common goal, process complex problems and develop solutions in various collaborative relationships.

### **BEING ABLE TO WORK IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MANNER**

AAU graduates have the skills to put their knowledge into play in interdisciplinary collaborations. This means that they are able to work across disciplines and areas of knowledge, which enables them to approach issues and create synergies in finding solutions from new and multiple angles.

