

Template for the Self-Evaluation

Research Assessment, Dalarna University 2023

The research assessment aims to assist the Schools at Dalarna University with their ongoing management of research activities and future development.

The research assessment, that include the Schools self-evaluation, is part of the quality assurance system at Dalarna University and is conducted every sixth year in accordance with the document *Regler för utvärdering och uppföljning av forskningsverksamhet vid Högskolan Dalarna* (HDa 1.2-2022/26) and its associated guidelines. The evaluation process aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current research activities in relation to existing goals and strategies at these three levels: Group, School and University. Further, the point of the research assessment is to improve the conditions for all Schools to carry out research that is of high quality. In addition, the quality assessment provides the University with important information that can help it ensure that research activities meet the requirements as outlined in the Swedish Higher Education Act (1992:1434) and the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) – requirements on which, for example, the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) bases its formulation of the main principles they apply when assessing research activities at higher education institutions:

The Higher Education Act states that the activities of the HEIs are to promote a close relationship between research and education and be adapted in a way that achieves high quality. The resources available are to be utilised effectively and the quality work undertaken is to be a mutual concern for staff and students. General principles of research that apply include the free selection of research questions, free development of research methods and free publication of research results. The HEIs are to safeguard academic credibility and good research practices.

(UKÄ 2020: Guidelines for Reviewing the HEIS' Quality Assurance Processes [page 5])

The research assessment 2023, that covers the years 2018-2022, will be conducted keeping in mind the Dalarna University Strategy for 2020-2026 (HDa 1.2-2019/1511), which prompted fundamental changes in the organisational structure and management of the University. It is the role of the assessments external reviewers (*sakunniga*) both to assess current research activities, their background and their goals (including strategies and plans), and also to provide the University with their thoughts on the future direction and development of the research activities and organisation.

Self-evaluations

The Schools are asked to conduct a self-evaluation of their research activities according to the headings and points provided below. Using these, each School is free to decide on the layout/structure, and the level of detail and focus. If the School deems one or more of the headings to be irrelevant for their activities, then they can disregard it. Conversely, anything that is not specified in the template can be added. Other aspects such as gender equality, equity, internationalisation and sustainable development can be relevant for inclusion under several headings even if the title or the suggestions under each one do not make that evident (for example, 2. Preconditions). Important to keep in mind in the self-evaluation are the opportunities that the School has to develop the research activities.

Central Administration at the University has produced material for use with the self-evaluation in accordance with *Vägledning för utvärdering och uppföljning av forskningsverksamhet vid Högskolan Dalarna* (June15, 2022). Note that in relation to the self-evaluation part this material is for support purposes only: the Schools are expected to use them in a purposeful way and in accordance with the aim of the self-evaluation, that being to further development of high quality research and research organisation. In other words, the Schools should not restrict their self-evaluation to this material.

The material from Central Administration is as follows:

- staff: the names and titles of researchers and the extent of their research activities in 2022 (from the Office of Human Resources)
- publications: the number and types of publications (from the University Library)
- bibliometric data according to the Faculty boards Research Quality Assurance Committee (*UFN:s granskningsutskott, UGF*) (from the University Library)
- internal funding for research, including the extent and allocation for 2022 (since the reorganisation of the University) (from the Office of Finance and Procurement)
- external funding greater than 500 tkr/year, including the name of the funding body, the name of the project, the time plan and the names of those responsible for the project, in the last five years. Information about funding where project managers are at another higher education institution but received Dalarna University funding is to be included. The Office of Finance and Procurement has this information
- guidelines for decision-making related to research, research requirements and the allocation of funding at the University (from the Office of Management Support).

The self-evaluation should have 20-30 pages (approx. 10 000 words).

Please note that for research that is conducted by more than one School, the following (based on *Vägledning för utvärdering och uppföljning av forskningsverksamhet vid Högskolan Dalarna*), applies: “the relevant Heads of School (*prefekter*) should agree on how the research activities will be presented in the self-evaluation of each respective School. This means that the Heads of School (*prefekter*) are responsible for ensuring that the research activities are duly described in the self-evaluation of at least one of the Schools”.

1. Area of research (approx. 2-4 pages)

Provide a short description of

- the content and focus of research at the School. Research profiles and any interdisciplinary work, including research conducted across two or more Schools.
- the development of research activities over the past five years (2018-2022) and the goals, plans and strategies for the coming five years. (Note that the University Faculty Board (UFN) will provide a short description of the changes in organisation and management that have taken place at the University in recent years as a result of the Dalarna University Strategy. Schools do not need to devote a great deal of the self-evaluation to a description of the university-wide reorganisation and changes.)
- your own assessment of the national and international standing of the School’s research.

2. Preconditions: organisation and resources in the School (approx. 4-6 pages)

Describe and evaluate the following. Present the description and self-evaluation separately.

- the financing, organisation and management of research activities (including the principles that determine the distribution of research funds and the influence researchers have over decisions concerning research activities). Explain the division of research responsibilities, decision-making and management, in relation to available research funding (internal and external), and the way these contribute to the School’s research goals and plans. Furthermore, explain how these aspects

contribute to the development and continuation of research in the School and to freedom of research.

- the School's work to attain and maintain professional competence, recruitment strategies aimed to achieve robust and creative research environments, continuity in staffing, career support and opportunities for research-based promotion and professional development activities, etc.
- suitability of premises and other work spaces for research.
- administrative support (IT, library, HR, finances, qualified research support, language, assistance with data storage, ethics review and legal questions, etc.).

3. Research outcomes, results, impact and professional relevance (about 8-10 pages)

Describe and evaluate the following. Present the description and self-evaluation separately.

- ongoing research, including current and planned research projects as well as completed projects that are still relevant for the research profile and further direction of the School. School-wide research activities are included, such as doctoral student research projects and contract research (*uppdragsforskning*). Include projects that involve researchers from the School but that are led by another higher education institution. Also include research that has no connection to a larger project.
- work to promote and maintain the quality of the School's research and good research practice (for example, seminars and conferences, presentations, information exchanges, international exchanges, work practices for the authoring of research texts or funding applications, etc.).
- dissemination of research findings and activities to promote research impact.
- impact of research on business or industry (for example, patents or spin-off companies), on policy (for example, professional guidelines) or on practice (such as government-authored texts or national guideline authorship).
- contribution to the wider academic community: positions in national and international academia; requirements to be involved in such work; the way the university benefits from/makes best use of the researcher's experience (editorship, membership on boards, committees or research-funding review panels, membership on editorial boards, guest researcher exchanges, other research-based activities, evaluation assignments, conference organisation, symposium organisation, workshops, acting in dissertations as an opponent or on an examining committee, etc.).

4. Relationship between research and teaching, including doctoral education (approx. 2-4 pages)

Describe and evaluate the following. Present the description and self-evaluation separately.

- the relationship between the content/focus of the research and education within the School on undergraduate-, master- and doctoral level (including the involvement of researchers from the School in teaching and how their expertise is put to best use, how teaching generates research questions, how research contributes to specialisations, and how students are involved in research projects/ pilot studies.
- existing or planned doctoral education activities (such as graduate schools, *forskarskolor*), applications for degree-awarding powers (doctoral programmes) and other collaborative activities relating to doctoral education with other higher education institutions.

5. External collaboration and other outreach activities (approx. 2-4 pages)

Describe and evaluate the following. Present the description and self-evaluation separately.

- research collaboration with business, authorities or the public sector, schools/education system, including contract research (*uppdragsforskning*), and how this contributes to the development of the School's research activities.
- efforts to promote the results of research activities externally and the external dissemination of the School's scholarly work; participation in the public debate, media prominence and similar.

6. Development opportunities and other comments or conclusions (approx. 2-4 pages)

Conclude with a summary and an analysis of the School's research activities and future aims. Add anything that has yet to be mentioned that may be of relevance for the assessment of the School's research activities. A recommendation is that parts of this summary can be laid out in the form of a SWOT analysis: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats.