



A new academic year has now started

2010 turned out to be the year when Aalborg University received the largest number of applications ever for our programmes – within all main areas. In the Aalborg Congress and Culture Centre all chairs were in use when we welcomed our new students.

A total of 3,216 applicants were offered a place via the coordinated enrolment system (KOT). 2,929 accepted the offer, and 2,816 have turned up. In total, AAU received 6,864 applications, which is an all-time record at AAU.

In order to consider the entire university intake, it is not sufficient to look only at KOT. Below you will find a brief survey of the other enrolment areas.

Direct intake outside of KOT

AAU received 927 applications for enrolment outside of KOT for bachelor and professional bachelor programmes, master programmes or one minor subject – either as ordinary students or as visiting students. In total, 687 students were enrolled, corresponding to approx. 35% more than in 2009. A number of applicants were turned down because they did not meet enrolment requirements, and some applied for a place in more than one master programme at AAU.

International students

Another area in which AAU has seen a remarkable increase is in the intake of international students. We have welcomed 657 international students, around 333 degree students and 324 visiting students.

Admission courses and single subject courses at upper secondary level

The total intake for admission courses and single subject courses at upper secondary level has increased by approx. 15% in 2010, from 248 in 2009 to 285 in 2010. There is a rise in the number of students enrolled for the two admission courses for the engineering programmes and the marine engineering programme, but a decline in the intake to the single subject courses at upper secondary level.

Continuing and Further education

Continuing and Further Education have admitted 669 new students, which constitutes a small decline of 56 students compared to the 2009 autumn intake. AAU is focusing on this area, for example by the establishment of our Management Academy through which, on the basis of our contact to business managers, we wish to promote our management programmes. It is also expected that the development of the new MBA programme will attract new students from next year.

Development contract prolonged by one year

Aalborg University's present development contract with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation expires by the end of 2010. However, the ministry has asked the universities to prolong their contracts by one additional year until 2011, because no final political decision about the new contract has yet been made. AAU has therefore prolonged the present goals for 2011, but the final negotiation and approval by the ministry are still pending. Negotiations with the rectors regarding new development contracts from 2012 will commence with the rectors before Christmas, while a settlement of the one-year contracts is being negotiated.

AAU strategy for 2010-2015

The board has approved AAU's strategy for 2010-2015. Subsequently, the management has discussed follow-up procedures and implementation of the new 5-year strategy and the 32 concrete goals. All faculties are now in the process of responding to the new strategy.

A short version of the strategy has been prepared in both Danish and English. This will be forwarded to all AAU departments and sections. The full strategy was included as an insert in the latest issue of UGlen (6/2010).

The full strategy, the 32 strategic goals, and the two short versions are also available at AAU's homepage.

AAU's collaboration possibilities with China

In China's 5-year plan for education, innovation is one of the keywords. Here, China has indicated that problem based learning (PBL) may help promote innovation. This provides Aalborg University with a unique opportunity to create increased collaboration with the Chinese educational sector. Last year AAU received a visiting Chinese delegation, among others, from China Medical University who were here to seek inspiration for ways in which medical programmes may be improved, and in this connection PBL was in focus. This was even before the medical programme at AAU had been approved. Therefore, there may well be new interesting openings for the university's international collaboration with China.

AAU now offers courses in Chinese culture

AAU Confucius Institute for Innovation and Learning is working on promoting Chinese language and culture in relation to students and staff at AAU. During the autumn of 2010 it is possible to participate in various courses on Chinese culture. Visit the programme at Confucius' homepage.

The 2010 Work Environment Prize

HSU (the general collaboration committee) has decided to introduce a prize for the best work environment at AAU. This year the prize was awarded to the Department of Production and Mechanical Engineering. The steering committee behind the workplace evaluation (APV) decided to award this year's work environment prize on the grounds that the department had succeeded in creating a new and positive work environment through a complicated merger process between two very different departments and cultures. Read more about the APV work at AAU's homepage.

Study environment to be continually monitored

The university intends to continually monitor the study environment in replacement of the traditional questionnaire survey among students which evaluates the educational quality every three years. This will be undertaken by for instance integrating some questions relating to various themes into the semester evaluations which already take place, and by adopting a broader understanding of

what may constitute a good study environment. In addition, every three years a more exhaustive report will be prepared, and this will then be followed up by new activities and by including students in quality assurance work.

Best regards,
Finn Kjærdsdam and Inger Askehave