



March 2010

2010 at Aalborg University has come off to a good start. It will be an interesting year offering a number of exciting challenges, such as the result of our application for the medical programme. AAU has experienced a large increase in quota 2 applications. At the moment a new strategy for Aalborg University covering the period 2010-2015 is being prepared. The strategy draft has now been submitted for hearing broadly at AAU. Also, 2010 is the year when the establishing of schools at AAU is being implemented.

Application for the medical programme

On 1 April 2009 Aalborg University submitted an application for accreditation of a bachelor and master's programme in medicine – in other words a full medical programme. Now almost a year has passed, and the process is moving into its final stage.

The status of the application process is that the master programme was positively accredited by the Accreditation Council on 5 March 2010. The bachelor programme was positively accredited before Christmas. The last step in the process to determine whether Aalborg University will have a full medical programme will be the appraisal of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the socioeconomic consequences of a medical programme at Aalborg University. The appraisal will, inter alia, include prognoses of the future demand for doctors in Denmark and the costs included in a fourth national medical programme.

Large increase in quota 2 applications

Aalborg University has biannual uptake deadlines for its programmes, quota 2 on 15 March, and quota 1 on 5 July. However, all applicants will receive a letter of information of uptake on 28 July.

As per 15 March 2010 AAU received a total of 2423 quota 2 applications for all bachelor and professional bachelor programmes offered in Aalborg, Esbjerg and Ballerup, which is an increase of 67% compared to the number of quota 2 applications in 2009. There is also an increase in the number of applicants who have listed a programme at AAU as their first priority.

Quota 2 applications:	2010	2009	Difference in percentage:	Difference in numbers:
HUM	972	675	44.0 %	297
SAMF	565	381	48.3 %	184
INS (excl. Medical programme)	603	392	54.0 %	211
Medical programme	283	-	-	283
Total	2423	1448	67.3 %	975

Statistics on the number of quota 2 applications etc. for bachelor and professional bachelor programmes via KOT (the Coordinated Enrolment System) may be found [here](#). Please note that because of IT problems, the numbers do not yet include the 419 digital applications which AAU has so far received via www.optagelse.dk. (Distributed as HUM=170, SAMF=104, and INS=145). The 419 digital KOT applications do appear from the above diagram.

In 2010 free access has been announced for qualified applicants for bachelor and professional bachelor programmes at AAU – except for Law, Psychology, Humanistic Informatics in Ballerup, and Medicine. The student administration office expects that a number of applicants will not submit their applications till the quota 1 deadline.

New strategy for Aalborg University: AAU Strategy 2015

AAU is facing the process of establishing a new strategy for the period 2010-2015. AAU Strategy 2015 will replace the present strategy covering the five-year period 2005-2010. In collaboration with the management, rector has prepared a draft for a new strategy which was submitted for hearing broadly at AAU in March. A staff meeting will also be called in May to discuss the strategy. The strategy will finally be approved by the university board in June. The strategy will be followed up by annual status reports on progress and results. AAU Strategy 2015 will form the basis of the preparation of strategies in the individual main areas, departments and service sections. See draft strategy [here](#).

AAU Campus development

The AAU board has just approved the development plans for the AAU campus. The plans are to gather the university in 4 campi, i.e. a main campus in Sdr. Tranders, a city campus in Aalborg including the creative and artistic programmes, and campi in Esbjerg and Ballerup. These plans will help strengthen the AAU as a network university.

At a meeting with the local authorities in Aalborg, students have presented various ideas for the development of the student and campus environments in Aalborg. A steering group has been appointed to further develop and implement some of the suggestions, i.e. playing fields for ball games, barbeque areas, a gym, university bicycles, car-free campus, etc.

In its budget the Danish parliament has set aside DKK 6 billion in 2010-2016 for the renovation of Danish university laboratories. Of this sum Aalborg University expects to receive DKK 469 million. Part of these funds will be spent on financing the moving from Sohngårdsholmsvej and the building of new laboratory facilities for the departments presently located at this address. This will include the building of approx. 8,000 m² for the Department of Biotechnology, Chemistry and Environmental Engineering and approx. 4,000 m² for the Department of Building and Construction. The building of a new modern library is also in the pipeline as part of a new university main building to the far west of the main campus, with entry from Einsteins Boulevard.

Status of "A good work environment – AAU taking a new road".

Since the responses to the work environment survey were registered, the results have been analysed in each section of the university, and action plans have been prepared. 15 March was the deadline for submission of action plans to the HR department. The General Collaboration Committee and the General Safety Committee and the management will now adopt a central action plan.

Overall, the questionnaire survey shows that the psychological work environment at AAU is characterised by staff who claim to be content, motivated and involved, and who find their jobs to be interesting, sufficiently challenging and meaningful. Motivation, good collaboration and good relations to closest superior are the most significant contributions to the positive evaluation of the psychological work environment. For a more detailed description of the results, all the reports are available at www.apv.aau.dk.

It is encouraging to find that the survey has provided an opportunity to place the work environment on the agenda in many connections, resulting in weighty discussions at and between organisational levels at AAU. Our future focus on a good work environment is also reflected in the draft strategy 2010-2015, which emphasises the work environment as a focus area.

Open House at Aalborg University

Aalborg University held three successful Open House events in Esbjerg (Reality Days) on 26 and 27 February, Ballerup on 2 March, and Aalborg on 3 March. In Esbjerg approximately 150 interested young people visited the university campus. Here they were welcomed by students, staff and businesses from the Region who shared their knowledge of study programmes and of what it is like to work as an engineer. In Ballerup the event was organised in collaboration with the Copenhagen University College of Engineering, which was a great success. Here as many as 500 visitors turned up. In Aalborg 1000 called in at the canteen areas at Kroghstræde 3 and Fredrik Bajers Vej 7A where more than 60 education stalls offered study programme presentations, guided tours and experiments. All three events were characterised by a very good atmosphere. The total number of 1650 participating young

people and their parents shows that an Open House event is still both relevant and popular.

The Careers Fair 2010

On 9 March the 9th careers fair was held in Gigantium, Aalborg. The careers fair was held in collaboration with the Careers Days, with similar fairs in Århus, Odense and Copenhagen during the same week. In spite of the financial crisis, Aalborg saw the largest number of exhibitors of the four fairs again this year. A total of 63 business enterprises and organisations participated, and more than 1800 students and graduates came by to make contact and create networks in order to pave the way to jobs, student jobs, internships and project collaboration. In spite of crisis and a reduced number of concrete offers from participating enterprises, many new contacts and relations were created at the fair.

Schools

The first schools have now been established at the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Medicine. Study programmes have been organised in four schools which coordinate selected tasks for the boards of studies. In future years the plan is that all faculties establish schools with a view to gathering study programmes and boards of studies in larger appropriate groups. The next faculty to implement the schools structure is Social Sciences in the autumn of 2010, and finally Humanities in the spring of 2011.

Changes in Bridge Building 2010

The management has decided that Bridge Building for upper secondary pupils 2010 will be held from Wednesday to Friday in week 43. This is a change compared to previous years when Bridge Building was held in both weeks 43 and 44. There are several reasons for this decision. One is that most AAU programmes have enough space capacity for all interested pupils in one week, another that Operation Dagsværk (day when school children work instead of going to school and give the money thus earned to charity) is held in week 44 in upper secondary schools, which would prevent some pupils from participating in Bridge Building. AAU also wishes to strengthen the national collaboration introduced last year, under which the event is coordinated between the country's institutions of further education, including Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, University of Copenhagen and the University Colleges.

Conference on PBL

On 4-6 May a conference will be held on the AAU model of problem and project oriented learning at AAU – also known as PBL. At this conference focus will be on, inter alia, the standards of PBL, which have been described in collaboration with Dr. Scott Barge from Harvard University, Graduate School of Education. Everyone working with the development of the problem oriented project work method in their research and teaching is welcome to participate, be it with a paper presentation or as a participant in the workshops. Visit www.pbl.aau.dk for details concerning programme and registration.

New rectorate secretary

On 1 March 2010 Louise Skov Pihlkjær started work as the new secretary to rector Finn Kjærdsdam and pro-rector Inger Askehave. Mona Lyngé is still working in the management secretariat, but now with shorter hours. Previously Louise worked for a short period in the PhD team of the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Medicine, and prior to that as an executive secretary at Motorola. If you need to contact Louise, her office address is the Management secretariat at Fredrik Bajers Vej 5, Tel.: 9940 9500 or e-mail lsp@adm.aau.dk. Welcome to Louise – we look forward to good collaboration with you!

Best regards,

Finn Kjærdsdam and Inger Askehave