



Global Challenges

A strategy area at the University of Bergen

2017-2022

Global Challenges is one of three main strategic areas at the University of Bergen (UiB) for the period 2016-2022. The strategic area Global Challenges at UiB was officially launched 15 May 2017, after approval from the University Board at UiB in February 2016 (6/16) and August 2016 (85/16). The Faculty of Medicine (MED) was given the role of administering this strategic area.

A strategic working group is established, with participants from all seven faculties at UiB, two student representatives and an observer from Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI). The faculties are: Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Psychology, Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Faculty of Law.

Our aim with this document is to summarise the current status of this strategic activity at UiB and to provide a basis for discussions on ways forward with new and continued collaborations within this strategic area.

Vision

Our ambition is that the University of Bergen will be recognized internationally as a university positively impacting global challenges

Mission

Our mission is to acknowledge and promote research and education of relevance to global challenges at the University of Bergen; and to facilitate new, innovative ideas as well as increased co-operation within these activities

What are Global Challenges?

The global challenges are numerous, examples are:

- Poverty
- Hunger
- Diseases
- Drought
- Insufficient education
- Inequality
- War and conflicts
- Discrimination
- Climate changes
- Lack of water
- Mass migration
- Missing infrastructure
- Unemployment
- Insufficient energy
- Pollution
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Lack of justice

Priority areas

Global Challenges focus on the **unequal development of human life conditions** globally – its causes, consequences, and remedies.

The **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) provide an overarching umbrella for this priority area. The United Nation's call to "*leave no one behind*" guides our thematic priorities.

Global Challenges includes **all activities** at the University of Bergen that contribute to the SDG agenda from this perspective. The thematic priority areas in this strategy period are:

- Health
- Migration
- Inequality of power and resources

Strategic priorities

All Faculties at the University of Bergen have research groups or individual researchers who already contribute within the area of Global Challenges. This scientific work builds on a strong legacy of addressing challenges of particular relevance to **low and middle-income countries (LMIC)**. However, Global Challenges is dynamic and will include new areas for research and new researchers.

Strategic priority 1 Strengthen our research related to global challenges

We will

- be an advisory board for new thoughts and ideas within research on global challenges at UiB
- foster interdisciplinary and interfaculty research at UiB
- inspire researchers at UiB to co-operate with researchers at other institutions in Bergen, and to co-operate with competent researchers in LMIC as well as with researchers from other countries
- stimulate more external financed research at UiB

Strategic priority 2 Strengthen our education related to global challenges

We will

- be an advisory board for new thoughts and ideas within education of global challenges at UiB
- foster interdisciplinary and interfaculty educational co-operation concerning global challenges at UiB

Success criteria

- Number of PhD scholarships within Global Challenges*
- Number of project applications for external funding supported/developed within Global Challenges*
- Number of participants in the Bergen Summer Research School*
- Interfaculty meetings arranged for PhDs on Global Challenges topics at UiB*
- Interfaculty courses at UiB*
- Master studies on Global Challenges*
- Activities started at Continuing Education (EVU) within Global Challenges*
- Number of Events at Bergen Global*
- Activity in important networks related to Global Challenges*
- Conferences in Bergen relevant for SDGs and Global Challenges*
- Media publicity of research related to Global Challenges, showing impact/policy changes*