



Department of Political Science and Public Management

# Strategy 2022-2026

# Foreword

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Dear all,

I am very proud to present the strategy of the Department of Political Science and Public Management for 2022-2026. In the strategy, we focus on high-quality research, high-quality education, strong societal relevance, and on creating an inspiring work environment. This is an ambitious set of goals, but I am convinced we can achieve them together.



It is important to emphasize that this strategy is ours. All employees at the department have contributed to formulate the strategy, and I have been very happy to see the enthusiasm and commitment in the process. With this strategy I believe we lay the ground for some very inspiring and productive years to come.

Best regards,

Signe Pihl-Thingvad

Head of Department

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line.



## **Our vision**

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We will be a nationally and internationally highly recognized research and education environment within political science, public management, and journalism. We strive to excel at being innovative and to provide strong societal relevance through our research and educational programmes.

## **Our mission**

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We will produce and disseminate high-quality research, educate students with strong labour market qualifications and provide value to society through our research and teaching.



# Our four objectives

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1. We will secure and strengthen our portfolio of **high-quality research**.
2. We will maintain and develop a **sustainable portfolio of study programmes of high quality** and societal relevance.
3. We will strengthen the outreach of our research and focus on **high societal relevance**.
4. We will secure a **motivating and inspiring work environment** for all employees.





# High-quality research

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## Aims:

- We will continue our strong publication records at the department and further increase the level of publications in the top journals of our targeted fields.
- We will work to improve our success rate in securing external funding for larger research projects.
- We will further develop research collaborations at the department and with external actors.
- We will support the development of early career scholars in our research collectives.







# High-quality education

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## Aims:

- We will maintain and further develop study programmes of high academic quality that create value for our students and society.
- We will explicitly prioritize excellent teaching skills and the teaching demands of our study programmes in hiring and promotion decisions.
- We will retain an increasing number of students and foster graduates' employability.
- We will secure the economic sustainability of our study programmes and a fair distribution of resources between them.
- We will secure the ownership and responsibility in all study programmes, with a special focus on those programmes that are not anchored in one section.
- We will introduce an attractive and distinguished international master's programme in political science located in Sønderborg.







# Strong societal relevance

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## Aims:

- We will provide value to society by actively taking part in the public debate and strengthening our collaboration with relevant societal actors.
- We will contribute to develop practical solutions in areas where our research is relevant by being a part of and influencing the processes where important decisions are made.
- We will work towards a stronger outreach strategy and support structure for increased communication within the department.







# Inspiring work environment

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## Aims:

- We will continuously secure transparency on workloads, decision-making and information relevant to employees' work and career prospects.
- We will secure a strong community and a shared identity at the department.
- We will institutionalize best practices of mentoring and career counselling to increase the independence of junior colleagues.
- We will secure a department with a good gender and equality balance.







# Bringing the strategy to life

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We have many projects at the department that demonstrate how we bring the strategy to life in different ways. One example is 'Future Education'

that develops an innovative approach to teaching. The project experiments intensively with nano-courses that students in journalism can complete when and wherever they want. The nano-courses are also sold to media companies to create more flexible educational opportunities for employees. Future Education, therefore, has the potential to create significant value for students, the media industry, as well as new knowledge that can benefit education and society in the long run.

*"What excites me about Future Education is that we get the opportunity to rethink education and the role of the teacher. The project experiments with pre-produced learning elements that can be used again and again, so that we can spend less time on the teaching itself and instead focus on giving our students the best possible supervision and feedback."*

*- Peter Bro, professor at the Centre for Journalism*



Another example is JUST SOCIETY, an interdisciplinary project with researchers from the department and the Department of Law. The project develops an international and innovative teaching programme and aims to promote equality through high-quality research on the rule of law and access to welfare rights in a comparative perspective. The teaching and research activities are developed in close collaboration with partner institutions in Georgia, Brazil, South Africa, and India.

INTELHUB is also a collective and interdisciplinary research project that demonstrates how we bring the strategy to life. The project includes both senior and junior colleagues and will provide knowledge on how to increase legitimacy when reforming intelligence services as well as feed into high-quality teaching at the MICS.

*“The composition of our team is incredibly inspiring. At the same time as we share an interest in the project itself, we can draw on each other’s core competencies in philosophy, international security and law, political science, intelligence studies, psychology, and organizational studies. This creates a much broader holistic understanding of a topic and theoretical discussion.”*

*- Mia Hartmann, postdoc on INTELHUB*



Another example of how we bring the strategy to life is with the development of our new master's programme in political science in Sønderborg. The

study programme will focus on public policies and how major challenges of society can be solved at a local level, and it will educate students with academic skills in political science and provide them with strong labour market qualifications.

Furthermore, we have several researchers that show us how we bring the strategy to life by sharing their knowledge on public policy, public management, and local elections with society.

*"I view the new master's in political science as a strategic (and mutual) win-win. For students, it offers them the possibility to continue their education in Sønderborg with a relevant and attractive programme. At the same time, it allows us to retain talented students and consolidate Campus Sønderborg as a vibrant educational hub."*

- Jaume Castan Pinos, associate professor at the Centre for Border Region Studies

*"I think it is important that we communicate our knowledge to the broader public as this contributes to create clarity about how the public sector works, which is often misunderstood in the public debate."*

- Kurt Klaudi Klausen, professor in the section of Public Administration

*"The local election campaign every fourth year is very short and intense and, therefore, I find it important to engage and contribute with facts and results from my research."*

- Ulrik Kjær, professor in the PA-section





Many of our experienced colleagues also contribute to the strategy by taking on the role as a mentor to provide guidance to early career scholars in relation to career planning and professional development. In addition to this, many of our early career scholars show us how we bring the strategy to life, for example by setting up feedback groups to improve research quality as well as networks to discuss issues relevant for early career scholars and the department.



*"I have learned a great deal from my very patient and kind mentor, especially on publication strategy, academic language and on constructing an argument, but also regarding tips on how to make it in academia."*

*"A nice safe space is the first word that comes to my mind when I think of the network of postdocs and assistant professors at the department. Here, I can discuss my concerns, challenges, but of course also successes with like-minded colleagues on the same academic level – and make work-friends. Apart from that, we try to push our views forward to the management. In my opinion, if you invest time and energy in this network there is a lot to gain."*

– Lene Heiselberg, assistant professor at the Centre for Journalism



**Department of Political Science and Public Management**  
The Faculty of Business and Social Sciences  
University of Southern Denmark  
Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M

Phone: +45 6550 1000

E-mail: [politics@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:politics@sam.sdu.dk)

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