

18.3.2011

RESEARCH STRATEGY OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

Overview of the Research Activities

The research conducted at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Jyväskylä, focuses on the ways how people create culture, art and traditions as well as form communities and interact in society. The research is extensive, which is due to the diverse nature of human activities. The fields of research include languages and communication, arts, music, culture and history.

The main goal of the research activities is to establish the Faculty as practicing high-level science and conducting high quality, internationally recognized research. The teaching offered by the Faculty is based on the research activities and its results. The main social influence is based on producing new information and applying research results.

The core operational areas of the Faculty are defined as to pay attention to the high level of research, breadth of operations and the national responsibilities of education. Of the five University of Jyväskylä focus areas, the Faculty of Humanities is included in three (*Education, learning and teaching in the future; Languages, culture and social processes of change; Human technology*), which unquestionably implicates that the Faculty is at the core of the University's operations (University of Jyväskylä regulations, March 25, 2010).

Operational Environment

The Faculty of Humanities of the University of Jyväskylä is a large and multidisciplinary unit. Its numbers of basic degree and postgraduate students as well as its master's degree objectives and results plus the number of publications are the highest within the University. Its research infrastructure is very good for a faculty of humanities – partly excellent, partly in need of development. The Faculty has started utilizing internationally unique and extensive research data. The departments share common research areas, which enables new, inter-departmental projects. These features enable a favourable operational environment for research.

The Faculty conducts basic research, aiming for theory formation, but is also looking for new applications for its expertise in society. The uniqueness and innovativeness of the field of the Humanities are exemplified by several research projects associated with modern technology. The strength of the Faculty is based on the constant high-level results produced by all departments in both research, education and social interaction. The features mentioned above set the standards of the Faculty of Humanities in the University of Jyväskylä higher than other faculties of Humanities in Finland.

The Faculty's special strengths are its high quality and diverse research activities and the teaching based on it. The diversity of the Faculty's operations, as based on recognizing its strengths, will continue as a policy because it has generated documentable results and will, also in the future, enable

innovative results in a multidisciplinary and internationally high quality research environment. The role of the Wolmar Schildt Institute is central in channeling the strengths between different disciplines and supporting the development of the Faculty's research activities.

The Faculty has renewed its structure with an emphasis to dismiss old traditions in the field of Humanities. The new departmental structures differ from the conventional disciplinary structures in other faculties of Humanities: for example, housing the historical and ethnological sciences within the same department is unique. The variety of disciplines at the Departments of Music and Art and Culture Studies are unique and the housing of the Department of Communication within the Faculty of Humanities is exceptional. The departments have aspired to do away with discipline-centered thinking and they now include operations common to each discipline.

Strengths in Research

Original and successful research fields which are strongly represented in Jyväskylä are e.g. the learning and use of languages, cognitive music research as well as comparative research of history.

The criteria in research strengths are defined by success in applications for centres of excellence and competitive research funding. In 2010, the Faculty included three centres of excellence in research, nominated by the Academy of Finland: *Multidisciplinary Music Research* (2008–2013; led by the Department of Music, co-hosted with the University of Helsinki), *Research of Philosophical Psychology, Morals and Politics* (2008–2013; Department of History and Ethnology, co-hosted with the University of Helsinki) and *Variation and Change in English* (2006–2011; Department of Languages, co-hosted with the University of Helsinki). The Department of History and Ethnology houses the Nordic centre of excellence in research, *The Nordic Welfare State – Historical Foundations and Future Challenges* as well as the ERC funded project, *Subjectivity and Selfhood in the Arabic and Latin Traditions*.

Started in early 2007, the FiDiPro project, Multilingualism as a Resource (Academy of Finland, FiDiPro Professor Jan Blommaert), was continued. Several local, national and international events were organized within the project and included extensive cooperation with international researchers (visits, co-publications etc.).

The Department of Music will co-host (2010-2014) the FiDiPro programme, Machine Learning for Future Music and Learning Technologies (MUSCLES), which is funded by the Academy of Finland and the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation. Partners include the Faculty of Information Technology, Department of Information Technology and Department of Psychology.

Research Objectives and Means to Achieve Them

The Faculty aims to strengthen its position as a unit conducting internationally high-level science and research and participating in the development of basic research related with the University's core areas. In particular, the Faculty will intensify activities that support research between the different core areas. The Faculty will invest in both the recognized strengths and new research lines. Both the quality and the quantity of the research conducted in the Faculty will be increased.

The objectives and means to achieve them:

- Creating high quality research environments.
 - The Faculty will increase the number of centres of excellence in research to four, supply funding for two FiDiPro research professorships as well as one or two Academy-funded professors.
 - Strengthening the prerequisites of research by developing its measures of support.
 - Developing work planning in order to intensify research activities.
 - The staff will be encouraged to networking and starting new research projects. New research projects and groups will be supported with both intellectual and material resources.
 - Researchers' careers will be developed by e.g. improving the position of post doctoral researchers in cooperation with partners and sponsors.
 - Research infrastructures will be developed in cooperation with the Faculty's Departments and other units of the University. A Humanities Research Laboratory, capitalizing on the Faculty's multidisciplinary research and teaching activities, will be created.
 - The teaching offered by both teachers and researchers will be linked with their own research activities.
 - The faculty will supply funding for language planning and translation services. The possibilities to establish a Faculty translator bank will be investigated.

- The amount of supplementary funding will be maintained large; the quality of the funding will also be paid special attention to.
 - Each Department shall increase the amount of funding supplied by the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, the EU and other competitive research funding (particularly from the private sector and the EU).
 - Potential projects will be assessed regarding their life-span expenses as well as paying attention to the administrative work involved.
 - The Faculty's Service Centre will offer financial management services in order to support project directors.
 - Cooperation with the University's Research and Innovation Services will be intensified regarding project coordination and administration.

- Strategic leadership of research activities will be intensified.
 - The Dean will be responsible for leading strategic research activities, supported by the Wolmar Schildt Institute. The Institute shall coordinate the Faculty's research profile, conduct its Doctoral Programme, evaluate the research activities and promote high-quality, multidisciplinary projects, adding a unifying aspect on the Faculty.
 - Multidisciplinary research will be intensified and supported. The multidisciplinary within the Faculty is to be strengthened and cooperation between different Departments supported. The cooperation will result in synergic advantages and new multidisciplinary projects.
 - Continuous dialogue will be maintained on the strengths and core areas of research. Also of importance is anticipating emerging fields and supporting new projects.
 - Strategic partnerships between different Departments will be developed further and new projects will be planned.
 - The Departments shall renew their research strategies, with due attention being given to the international research evaluation.
 - Particular targets for development in the planning period are the Faculty's and Departments' project portfolios and how to utilize them in the strategic leadership of research activities.

- To further develop the Faculty's publishing strategies.
 - The Faculty will maintain the present amount of refereed publications, with an emphasis on international publishing.
 - Publishing activities will be channeled to the most significant forums, both nationally and internationally.
 - The Faculty will actively contribute to both the University's own and national publishing policy.
 - The most important publishing forums will be determined discipline-wise.
 - Particular attention will be paid to developing international publishing and cooperation networks.
 - Research and publishing activities will be intensified together with the Faculty's strategic partners (co-publishing, joint conferences and research projects).

Evaluation

The quality and results of the Faculty's research activities will be regularly assessed by the management teams of both the Schildt Institute and the Faculty as well as the Faculty Council. The central sources of information for the evaluation include the Tutka Database for Publications and Research Activities and various research indicators selected by the Faculty. The Faculty's research strategy is assessed annually in its strategic and fiscal plan.



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ