

# Universities of Klagenfurt, Potsdam, South-Eastern Norway and Stirling join YERUN!

10 January 2022

YERUN opens the new year by welcoming four new members! The Universities of Klagenfurt, Potsdam, South-Eastern Norway and Stirling joined YERUN as of 1st of January 2022. These four new memberships bring new perspectives, energies and expertise to YERUN, further strengthening the voice of young research universities in Europe. A big welcome to these four new members into the Young European Research Universities Network!



**Prof. Oliver Vitouch**

**Rector of the University of Klagenfurt**



**Prof. Oliver Günther**

**President of the University of Potsdam**



**Prof. Petter Aasen**

**Rector of the University of South-Eastern Norway**



**Prof. Gerry McCormac**

**Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stirling**

"Speaking of universities, most people think of the "ancient universities" first: Bologna, Oxbridge, Salamanca, Vienna, Heidelberg. But there are new kids on the block, too: Young, research-intensive, aspiring institutions striving to attract the brightest minds from all over the globe and to promote graduates who are fit for a challenging future. YERUN connects "The Best of The Young" on a European level, contributing to vivid exchange, to European integration and to a dynamic European Research Area. The University of Klagenfurt, in line with its recent success story, is happy and proud to join YERUN, and to vigorously partake in this endeavour."

"We are very excited to join YERUN, a true peer group of renowned research universities that have been founded relatively recently. For a university – just as for humans – being "young" has advantages and disadvantages. On the upside, a younger organization is often more flexible, more agile, and more adaptive. This allows us to take on current research challenges and to develop new programs of study relatively quickly. On the downside, the reputation of a research university often grows over decades. Young universities therefore do not have that much name recognition, which makes it harder to attract excellent students and faculty. With our YERUN partners we can work on these challenges together and learn from each other. I am very much looking forward to the upcoming exchanges."

"We are delighted to take part in this community of young, progressive universities that work to transform higher education in Europe. This network of universities is sharing our vision, mission, values, focus areas and priorities. Through collaboration in education and research the ambition is to benefit from, and contribute to YERUN's mission and strategy."

"YERUN is a leading, innovative, and dynamic network whose ambitions and aims very much align to those of the University of Stirling. We are delighted to become a YERUN member and look forward to contributing to and working across the network in joint research and teaching initiatives to maximize mobility, research capacities and employability of our graduates."

**Prof. Snježana Prijić-Samaržija**

**YERUN President**



"After a couple of challenging years, we at YERUN are proud to kick off the new year welcoming four new members, whose commitment to excellence in research and education did not go unnoticed. Their unique experiences, fresh ideas and praiseworthy achievements will bring a new dynamic to the Network, helping us to strengthen our collective intelligence and solidarity through institutional engagement, and to expand the space for freedom of thought and action."



**Silvia Gomez Recio**

**YERUN Secretary General**

"The new year could not start any better: our YERUN family grows exponentially with these four new members. Their excellent, innovative, diverse and complementary approaches strengthen our network's voice and expertise. Their core missions on education, research and service to society perfectly match YERUN's vision, mission and strategy and we proudly welcome them as new members. We look forward to engaging them in our activities as of today."



# About the University of Klagenfurt



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## About

The University of Klagenfurt is a young and innovative university at the intersection of three cultures. The THE Young University Rankings 2021 places the University of Klagenfurt at rank 48 among the best young universities worldwide. The University of Klagenfurt therefore is one of best “youngsters” in the world and combines international prestige and a youthful spirit. The university's campus covers 10 hectares, close to the shores of Lake Wörthersee. The infrastructure provides all you need for a perfect time at university: short distances, modern buildings, and plenty of great leisure and cultural activities. It's also very green: around half of the campus is undeveloped space.

The University of Klagenfurt offers studies in the fields of business, culture, languages, media, law, technology and teaching. In addition, there are extension programmes, free electives and over 30 continuing education programmes. High quality supervision, short distances and practice-oriented and research-oriented teaching guarantee the best conditions for the successful completion of your desired studies. The student to professor ratio at the university is around 38 to 1. In other words, you're not just an anonymous (matriculation) number here. Instead, your lecturers will encourage and challenge you individually. The range of courses includes 18 Bachelor's programmes, 27 Master's programmes, 14 teacher training courses and 5 Doctoral programmes.

The university's researchers work in a wide range of disciplines (humanities, economics, social sciences, technical sciences, interdisciplinary studies). With their research projects, many contribute to anticipating and shaping the profound changes that accompany digitalisation. They seek to shed light on many aspects of the digital revolution, but especially the technological, economic, legal, social, behavioural, and cultural aspects. The recently established Digital Age Research Centre (D!ARC) provides the organisational framework for this bold attempt to shape the transition to the digital age. Other research interests include networked and autonomous systems, multiple perspectives on optimisation, energy management and engineering, sustainability, self-organising systems, and visual culture.

The university's infrastructure provides a supportive environment for its approximately 1,000 academic staff. One of the highlights is the largest drone flight hall in Europe, where work is done on algorithms for unmanned aerial vehicles.



# About the University of Potsdam



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## About

Founded in 1991, the University of Potsdam has evolved into a unique center for science and technology within Germany. Seven faculties form the pillars of the institution: the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Human Sciences, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, the Digital Engineering Faculty, jointly established by the University of Potsdam and the Hasso Plattner Institute, the Law Faculty and the Faculty of Health Sciences in cooperation with the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU) and the Brandenburg Medical School "Theodor Fontane".

Special emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary areas beyond the teaching and research activities of the individual institutes. The four research focuses of the University of Potsdam are earth and environmental systems, evolutionary systems biology, cognitive sciences and data-centric sciences.

Beautifully located in close vicinity to the capital Berlin, the University of Potsdam is well-placed in a firmly-established and successful interdisciplinary infrastructure. Exploiting synergies is a matter of course: more than 70 joint professorships intensify the cooperation between the university and its non-university research partners.

Students interested in research have the opportunity to get involved in ongoing research projects during their studies and to finish with a doctoral dissertation, which is an additional incentive for them to engage in a scientific career. To increase academic support for doctoral candidates, the University of Potsdam has founded the Potsdam Graduate School that spans the faculties, turning Potsdam into an even more attractive academic location for young scholars from Germany and abroad.

# About the University of South-Eastern Norway



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## About

The University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) is an integral part of an exciting and dynamic region that contains hi-tech industries at the forefront of the green transition, a rich maritime tradition dating back to the Viking age, and UNESCO World Heritage sites. USN is located in two counties with eight campuses (Bø, Drammen, Horten, Kongsberg, Notodden, Porsgrunn, Ringerike and Rauland), 1 900 staff and 18, 000 students. USN is integrated in society and the labour market, cooperating closely with regional businesses and the public sector to ensure the best possible education for future employees.

This relevance to working life is further emphasised, through endowed professorships sponsored by regional actors and a multitude of externally funded projects based in the regional innovation ecosystem. Environmental, economic and social sustainability are embedded in teaching and research activities at USN as to promote sustainability and support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. USNs commitment to sustainability is furthered in the Centre for Environmental Transitions which has been established to coordinate and maximise on the sustainability efforts between faculties.

A broad range of study programmes are offered at Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. level in health and social sciences, engineering and technology, education, sports, humanities, business studies and more. To facilitate internationalisation a wide range of courses are available in English for incoming exchange students. USN has a proven record for delivering innovative and relevant study programmes, winning the national prize for quality in education five times since 2008. Most recently for the innovative Industry Master programmes, where students are employed 50% in a relevant company. Our research explores a wide range of regional and global challenges in, for example, health, society, the environment, technology and education. Our key research areas span from micro and nano systems, health services development, culture studies, ecology, management, maritime logistics and training, vision science, health technology, systems engineering, process industry, energy systems, to pedagogical resources and learning processes. With a number of our research groups participating in national centres of excellence in research, education, innovation and environmentally friendly energy.

Harnessing the research expertise at USN to contribute to expanding the forefronts of knowledge and solving global challenges at a European and international level is high on our agenda. As such, active participation in the EUs research, innovation and education programmes are a priority and provide an exciting opportunity to build strong and long-lasting collaborations.

# About the University of Stirling



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## About

The University of Stirling is an outward-looking international university, with a global reputation for providing high-quality education with a purpose and carrying out research that helps to shape society. We are an agent for change and strive to create impact in everything we do. We deploy innovative teaching practices and learning infrastructure in order to provide the best possible environment to support student learning. Our aim is to unlock the full potential of the 16,000 students that study across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes each year, and to equip them with the skills to thrive as global citizens in our fast-moving world.

Less than an hour from Glasgow and Edinburgh, our beautiful 330-acre campus is home to student accommodation, catering outlets, shops, a cinema and theatre, and even an 18th-century castle. We've also invested more than £20 million to create Campus Central - the new dynamic heart and the social core of the University.

As Scotland's designated university for sporting excellence and host to the National Swimming Academy and National Tennis Centre, Stirling has an array of top-class facilities, including the new £20 million Sports Centre which opened in November 2020. This investment is set to further enhance the University's sporting reputation and support diffusion of the institution's culture of health and wellbeing. In recognition of Stirling's commitment to sports performance, research and education, the University was awarded the Times and Sunday Times Sports University of the Year 2020. Stirling's sporting excellence was exemplified by six Stirling-based athletes being selected to compete in the Tokyo Olympic Games, returning home with five medals - two gold and three silver.

Our vision is to be recognised across the world as a university that addresses the needs of society through innovative interdisciplinary research. We are proud that our work is already making a positive impact on people's health, education and wellbeing, and we are working hard to do even more through research that is embodied within three major themes: Cultures, Communities and Society; Global Security and Resilience; and Living Well. Our reputation for research that makes a difference has positioned us on the frontline of the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with our researchers leading major projects to consider the effects of the virus on society and using our expertise to search for answers with impact.



Building on its solid research platform, Stirling has a global network for students, staff and alumni to share advice and seek mentorship, while the University of Stirling Innovation Park is a key hub for start-ups and established businesses, research collaboration and potential jobs.

Its Institute of Aquaculture was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2019 for its pioneering work in the world's fastest-growing food production sector in a bid to tackle global hunger. The university is now targeting its research on the government's "grand challenges" such as Scotland's aim to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

In December 2020, it was confirmed that the University would host the Scotland Hydro Nation Chair, establishing a unique partnership with Scottish Water and the SFC. The Chair will lead a £3.5m initiative to position Scotland as a global leader in water research and provide the leadership to forge collaborative partnerships across the sector to deliver solutions for sustainable water management in Scotland. The University's leadership and research expertise will play a pivotal role in supporting the ambitions for Scotland to transition to a net zero economy.

In February 2020, the University signed the 'Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal' with its local authority and Scottish Government partners. This confirmed the Deal's £214 million investment package from UK and Scottish Governments and for Stirling it will provide £17m to support a National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) and £22m for Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC).

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- About YERUN -

The Young European Research University Network (YERUN) is a cluster of highly-ranked young universities in Europe that strengthens and facilitates cooperation in the areas of scientific research, academic education and services which benefit society. In this context, YERUN members consider that adequate support to human capital is essential to foster the next generations of (European) researchers and innovators. Strong support for excellent early-career researchers is therefore a priority for all YERUN members.

- YERUN Members -

University of Antwerp, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Bremen, Brunel University London, University Carlos III Madrid, University of Cyprus, Dublin City University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Essex, University of Klagenfurt, University of Konstanz, University of Limerick, Maastricht University, NOVA University Lisbon, University Paris Dauphine-PSL, University of Potsdam, University of Rijeka, University of South-Eastern Norway, University of Southern Denmark, University of Stirling, Tor Vergata University of Rome, UiT The Arctic University of Norway and Ulm University.



**YERUN, Young European Research Universities Network, January 2022**

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