



President



**Aalto
University is a
multidisciplinary
community of
bold thinkers
where science
and art meet
technology and
business.**

At Aalto University science and art meet technology and business.

Aalto University is a young, growing, world-class university located in Finland. It creates impact through world-class research and education, combining disciplinary excellence with collaboration across fields.

By fostering creativity, research-based knowledge and an entrepreneurial mindset, the University develops new ideas and solutions to major global challenges and empowers the game changers of tomorrow.

Established in 2010 through the merger of the Helsinki School of Economics, Helsinki University of Technology and the University of Art and Design Helsinki, Aalto builds on a long tradition of excellence in science, technology, business, art and design. Today, its six schools form a vibrant international community of approximately 16,000 students and 5,200 employees, including 446 professors.

More than fifteen years after the merger, Aalto is still evolving but has become an integrated and high-performing institution with worldwide recognition. Its schools work together within a coherent university, research and education perform ever more strongly, and the University has a solid financial foundation.



What Makes Aalto Distinctive

Where disciplines become possibilities.

Aalto's unique combination of science, art, technology and business creates an environment where different ways of thinking meet. This convergence opens new paths for discovery, learning and impact, together with the development of a singular, one-of-its-kind, creative academic culture.

The courage to imagine differently. Radical creativity is at the heart of Aalto. The University encourages people to question assumptions, experiment boldly and pursue ideas that challenge what is possible.

Ideas that become action. Aalto nurtures an entrepreneurial mindset across its entire community, helping people turn knowledge and ideas into innovations, ventures and solutions with real-world impact.

A community built for collaboration. Aalto's campus brings together students, researchers, companies, public organisations, alumni and other partners. It is an environment designed for encounters, exchange and unexpected connections.

Impact that reaches far beyond the campus. Aalto combines international excellence with a deep commitment to Finland and its renewal. Its research, education and partnerships contribute to a more sustainable, resilient and innovative society—and to solutions that matter around the world.

A culture shaped by students, for students. Aalto's student community is uniquely active and student-led. Hundreds of associations and thousands of volunteers create opportunities to find connections, contribute and support one another throughout student life. This culture of participation and belonging is an integral part of the Aalto experience.



Purpose, Strategy and Direction

Aalto University's purpose is to shape a sustainable future. It pursues excellence and breakthroughs in research and education, both within disciplines and across them. Through research-based knowledge advances, creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset, Aalto contributes to the societal impact and prepares future generations to create meaningful change. Its work is guided by three values: responsibility, courage and collaboration.

Aalto's strategy centres on excellence in research and teaching, future-led learning and an inspiring ecosystem. To support these priorities, the University invests in its people and community, infrastructure and campus, while developing the services and resources that enable them to succeed.

Three approaches underpin the University's work: solutions for sustainability, radical creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset.



Looking Ahead

Building on its distinctive strengths, Aalto aims to further develop as a highly original, attractive and innovative Northern European university that is internationally recognised for its excellence and known for the distinctive impact created when disciplines come together within a mindset geared for creativity.

Aalto will continue to invest in areas of research and education where it can achieve exceptional quality, impact and international recognition. The University will strengthen the links between research, art, education, innovation and entrepreneurship, creating pathways from discovery to application and from imagination to impact. At the same time, it will safeguard the academic freedom, curiosity and fundamental research that make long-term breakthroughs possible.

The University must also respond to current profound changes in higher education, research and society, including artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, sustainability requirements, geopolitical threats and evolving forms of learning, work and collaboration. Aalto sees this as an opportunity to rethink, reconnect and build a better future.

People are at the heart of this ambition. Aalto exists to attract outstanding and diverse faculty, students and staff from Finland and from around the world, and to foster an inclusive and creative community where people challenge themselves, challenge one another and thrive with joy.

Long-term financial resilience is to enable Aalto to pursue its vision with courage and independence. This will require continued growth in competitive and private funding, deeper partnerships and philanthropy, and an ambitious yet credible approach to strengthening the University's foundation endowment.



Governance and Leadership

Aalto University is a foundation-based university with six schools. Its governance model combines clear institutional accountability with academic decision-making and responsibility within the schools.

Key Governance and Leadership Roles

Body	Role in Aalto’s Governance
Board	Seven members. Decides on the University’s strategy, major investments and financial stewardship and is responsible for far-reaching plans; appoints the President and Provost.
President	Directs the University, represents its science, business and art community, and acts as Managing Director under the Foundations Act.
Provost	Deputy to the President; supports the President in the management of university academic affairs, supports in strategic development, professor appointments and resource management, and leads University-level teaching, research and impact processes.
Academic Affairs Committee	Joint, university-level administrative body serving to promote a high quality of research, teaching, and artistic activity.

Further Information

[Aalto University](#) | [Strategy](#) | [Management](#) | [Organisation](#) | [Annual Review 2025](#)

The Role of the President

The President provides the institutional and operational leadership required for Aalto University to fulfil its purpose and realise its ambitions. Inheriting a strong institutional platform, the President will work with the Board and the University community to translate long-term vision into clear priorities, focused action and measurable progress, with the ambition of moving Aalto towards ever growing international distinction. The President is accountable for the University's overall performance, organisational resilience, financial continuity and service to Finland.

Institutional and Academic Leadership

The President:

- Positions Aalto as one of Europe's most innovative and entrepreneurial universities, fully leveraging its unique combination of science, art, technology and business to create new knowledge, talent and societal value.
- Anticipates the forces shaping higher education, research and society, including artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and global developments, and articulates a positive and impactful role for Aalto within this rapidly changing landscape.
- Creates the conditions in which excellence in research, education, artistic work, societal impact and multidisciplinary collaboration can flourish.
- Safeguards academic freedom, fosters collegiality and shared governance, engages meaningfully with faculty, students and staff across Aalto's diverse academic community, to define and carry through a clear and motivating direction for Aalto's development.

- Works constructively with students, student unions and student organisations, recognising them as active partners in Aalto's academic community and development.

Entrepreneurship and Technology

The President:

- Has an entrepreneurial mindset and acts with initiative, connecting ideas, people and resources, taking measured and well-judged risks to move Aalto forward.
- Brings sufficient technological fluency to judge what matters, with the curiosity to go deep when required and the perspective to place technological change in its wider economic, societal and geopolitical context.



The Role of the President

External Representation and Influence

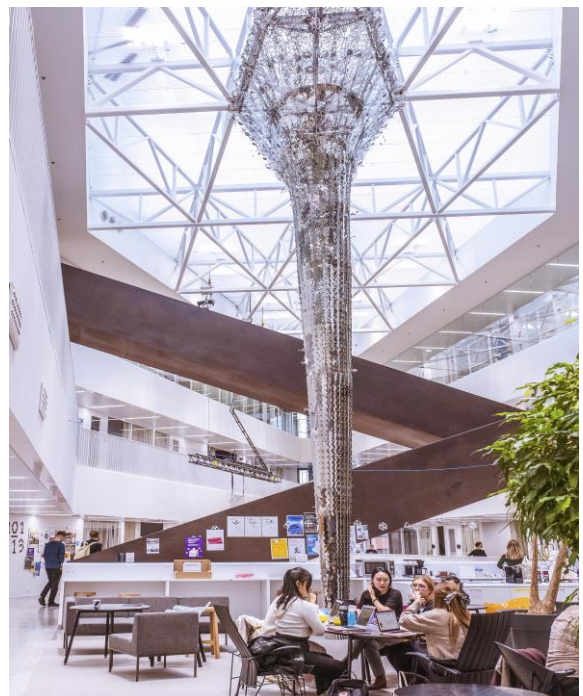
The President:

- Acts as an influential ambassador for Aalto, representing the University credibly and persuasively in Finland and internationally.
- Builds proactive and constructive relationships with government, political leaders, universities, research organisations, funders, business, cultural institutions, alumni, donors and other stakeholders, opening and deepening partnerships at the most senior level.
- Strengthens Aalto's contribution to advocacy and its ability to shape higher education, research and innovation policy.
- Owns Aalto's relationship with the business community, which is central to both its research and its resources, while ensuring that corporate engagement strengthens rather than distorts academic priorities.
- Deepens strategic corporate partnerships and co-created research, expands private funding and philanthropy, strengthens the deep-tech ecosystem around the campus, and leads the development of a compelling vision for growing Aalto's foundation endowment.

Organisational Leadership and Governance

The President:

- Leads a sizeable and complex organisation, ensuring effective operations, sound financial and asset management, and the responsible use of the University's resources.
- Ensures transparent, timely and consistent decision-making across the University.
- Builds and empowers a high-performing leadership team, ensuring Aalto has the breadth of expertise and credibility required to lead the University effectively, while creating an environment that enables people to take initiative and act.
- Fosters and communicates for the Aalto community a clear direction and sense of purpose into the future.



For more info visit:
[Aalto University](https://www.aalto.fi)

The Candidate Profile

Aalto seeks an accomplished, forward-looking leader who is genuinely enthusiastic about the University's purpose and unique combination of science, art, technology and business. The successful candidate will have the ability to turn long-term vision into action and to inspire Aalto's community and partners.

The following qualities should stand out.

Strategic and academically savvy. A visionary leader and world class academic able to move the multidisciplinary University towards international distinction and recognition. Strengthens the value-capture from the unique combination of art, technology science and business across research, education and societal impact.

Finance and fundraising. Combines institutional and financial judgement with proactivity towards increasing future resources. Owns and develops Aalto's relationship with the business community. Central in developing and deepening strategic corporate partnerships, co-created research, private and public funding, philanthropy, and the deep-tech ecosystem around the campus. Ensures that corporate engagement strengthens rather than distorts academic priorities.

Entrepreneurial and multidisciplinary. Acts with initiative, recognising new possibilities and willing to challenge the status quo. Connects ideas, people and resources, and takes well-judged risks. Understands technology, business, arts and design well enough to judge what matters. Not necessarily as a specialist, but with sufficient depth and curiosity to place technological change in its wider economic, societal and geopolitical context.

Proactive and Outward Facing. A natural communicator, ambassador and networker, capable of building trusted relationships with the general public, politicians, government, ministries, universities, business, cultural institutions, funders, donors and international partners. Has the credibility and persistence to strengthen Aalto's voice and contribute actively to the shaping of national policy.

Consultative and Decisive. Listens carefully, uses evidence and exercises sound judgement before taking responsibility for clear and timely decisions. Can make difficult choices on a firm ethical basis, can establish focus and maintain momentum amid complexity and competing interests.

Empowering and Collaborative. Practises servant leadership, creating clarity and trust, enabling others to lead and drawing on the diverse expertise and culture of the community. Creates an environment that supports initiative and action, while maintaining clear accountability and high ethical standards.

Committed to the Aalto Community. Is intellectually curious and genuinely excited by science, art, technology and business. Values different academic cultures, brings people and talent together, and recognises the possibilities created by working in and across disciplines.

A Builder of Long-Term Strength. Combines institutional and financial judgement with resourcefulness in fundraising. Can define a strategy for growing Aalto's foundation endowment and engage alumni, donors, partners and advocates in supporting that ambition.

The Candidate Profile

Experience and Essential Requirements

Candidates may bring different career paths and forms of leadership experience. They will be expected to demonstrate:

- A doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent) and a strong understanding of what constitutes world-class research and education, based on a proven and strong track record of accomplishment in academic research.
- Significant leadership experience gained within a sizeable, complex and multicultural organisation, or compelling evidence of readiness to operate successfully at this level.
- The ability to translate an ambitious long-term vision into clear priorities, effective execution and measurable progress.
- A clear understanding of, and the ability to enforce, high ethical standards in both research, teaching and societal impact across the University.
- An ability to build trusted relationships and effective networks across government, academia, business and wider society, and to use these relationships to advance institutional priorities and influence policy discussions.
- The credibility and communication skills to represent Aalto persuasively in Finland and internationally. Knowledge of the Finnish higher education, research and political landscape would be valuable, alongside the ability to develop this understanding and establish credibility quickly.
- The ability to strengthen partnerships and diversify resources. Experience of fundraising, donor engagement or endowment development would be valuable, but candidates must at least be able to demonstrate strong motivation and potential in these areas.

The President must be able to communicate with authority and sensitivity across Aalto's international community and with its national stakeholders.

English is required. Finnish and/or Swedish language skills are highly valued and will support success in the role, particularly as Finnish is the University's administrative language and many key forums and stakeholder settings relevant to the role operate in Finnish.



For more info visit:
[Aalto University](https://www.aalto.fi/en)



What Defines Success

Success will be defined by the President's ability to translate Aalto's purpose and distinctive strengths into sustained academic excellence, a growing international reputation, a thriving community and greater impact in Finland and internationally.

Over the coming years, this will be evident when:

- Aalto demonstrates sustained excellence, accomplishment and recognition in research, art and education with worldwide visibility in selected areas of international distinction.
- The University's unique combination of science, art, technology and business creates growing levels of collaboration, entrepreneurship, innovation and societal impact.
- Aalto attracts, develops and retains outstanding faculty, students and staff within an inclusive, empowering and high-performing community.
- The University is recognised as an active and influential contributor to higher education, research and innovation policy in Finland and internationally.
- Aalto's partnerships, competitive and private funding, philanthropy and foundation endowment have grown, strengthening its capacity to define and pursue long-term academic ambitions.
- The University makes clear choices and follows through with timely and consistent decisions, while remaining financially resilient, well governed and true to its values of responsibility, courage and collaboration.



Work at Aalto University

Why join us?

Established in 2010 as a merger of three leading Finnish Universities, we are both **challenger of the old, and traditional with strong history** and legacy.

Our unique combination of fields in **science, art and design, technology and business enable multi-disciplinarity** and finding clever solutions for the world's most wicked problems in the interfaces of these fields.

We aim for **societal impact**, educating game changers to drive sustainability.

We enjoy working at our evolving **collaborative campus close to the heart of Helsinki**, with good connections, great architecture and amazing nature.

We are **international and diverse**: more than 50% of our faculty comes from outside of Finland. Our international, English-speaking working environment makes it easy to settle in and feel at home, wherever you come from.

Culture that inspires and includes everyone.

It's the people that create Aalto, now and in the future. We want to be an open community where equality and inclusion enable curiosity, innovation collaboration and wellbeing.

We constantly keep learning to find the most impactful ways to empower and invest in our people.