

# Reinforcing Collaboration with the Non-Academic Sector

## A Case Study From Reykjavik University

Active collaborations with over 300 partners from the non-academic sector, many working with several departments on numerous projects. These partnerships have many forms.

### STRATEGY

Relations with industry and society are a part of RU's core strategy. We seek a dynamic relationship where active feedback is given both ways to shape jobs of the future.

### FACULTY

Collaboration with industry and society is integrated in academic work through research, teaching and administrative tasks.

### TEACHING

Adjunct lecturers and professors, guest speakers, and thesis supervisors from the industry are a vital part of RU's ecosystem.

### RESEARCH

RU puts equal emphasis on research and teaching. Through research many of RU's strongest partnerships with the non-academic sector are sustained.

### INTERNSHIPS

Across all departments. Academic, value-driven internships and service learning. Students work improving and creating value through real assignments, often leading to job opportunities or creating new positions. 9 out of 10 students get a job following graduation.

### EVENTS

Reykjavik University hosts over 100 diverse official events annually, ranging from conferences and study presentations to lectures, research showcases, theses defenses, case competitions, and hackatons.

### INNOVATION

RU aims at increasing utilization of research through licenses and establishment of spinoffs. RU is a founding partner of Audna TTO Iceland, the largest research institutes in Iceland and owner of KLAB Icelandic Startups that runs competition and accelerators.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE START-UP SUN

Iceland's biggest course at a university level, Entrepreneurship and Starting New Ventures, is taught at RU. A transdisciplinary three-week innovation sprint. Venue where students and society meet to create and innovate.

- 500-600 students in 5-person teams from all departments at RU
- Around 50 experts, entrepreneurs, and investors take part in the course as mentors, teachers, and evaluators
- Start-ups are at all scales and non-profit and social as well
- Lectures on sustainability and teams link their work to the SDGs

## ABOUT REYKJAVIK UNIVERSITY

**ROLE:** We prepare society for the future.

**VISION:** We are at the forefront, internationally, in creating and sharing knowledge guided by ethicality, inclusivity, and sustainability.

- Established in 1998
- One campus - 30.000 m<sup>2</sup> "Everything under the same roof"
- 4000 students
- 320 employees, 350 part-time lecturers
- 7 Academic Departments; Applied Engineering, Business Administration, Computer Science, Engineering, Law, Psychology, Sports Science
- Preliminary studies and Open University - Executive Education and Continuous Learning



**RU's Start-Up Sun**  
60 Start-Ups have been founded at RU. Rising from research, student's final projects and the course Entrepreneurship and Starting New Ventures.