

## #16. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS PARK UMEA

Location:  
Umea, Sweden  
Year: 2011

Theme(s):  
Partnership/ Inclusivity/ Stakeholder involvement

Languages: English/ Swedish  
Source: <https://bit.ly/2HEj6dM>

### WHY IS THIS A GOOD EXAMPLE?

According to the latest research, the most important factors of learning in an academic environment do not include lengthy academic lectures and observations through a microscope, but rather meetings of an informal nature. In this respect, the campus outdoor spaces are essential because they offer an informal environment for researchers, students and teachers to meet and discuss a variety of topics, which is a part of the Anglo-Saxon educational tradition. Sweden has recently adopted a policy which directs all higher education study programs to provide students with these kinds of areas. The Umea University is amongst the first who implemented it.



Photo credit: <https://www.akademiskahus.se/en/>

### DESCRIPTION

A campus park should provide a variety of designated places with the capacity to host informal discussions and promote the exchange of ideas. It is in the open, non hierarchical spaces, rather than in lecture auditoriums or under laboratory microscopes where truly creative interactions between students, researchers and teachers happen. The quality of the campus park thus enhances the attractiveness of the university as a whole. The design of the new Campus Park at Umea University is designed to foster a sustainable society and consists of 23 000 sq. sun decks, jetties, open lawns, walking trails and terraces organized around an artificial lake.

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