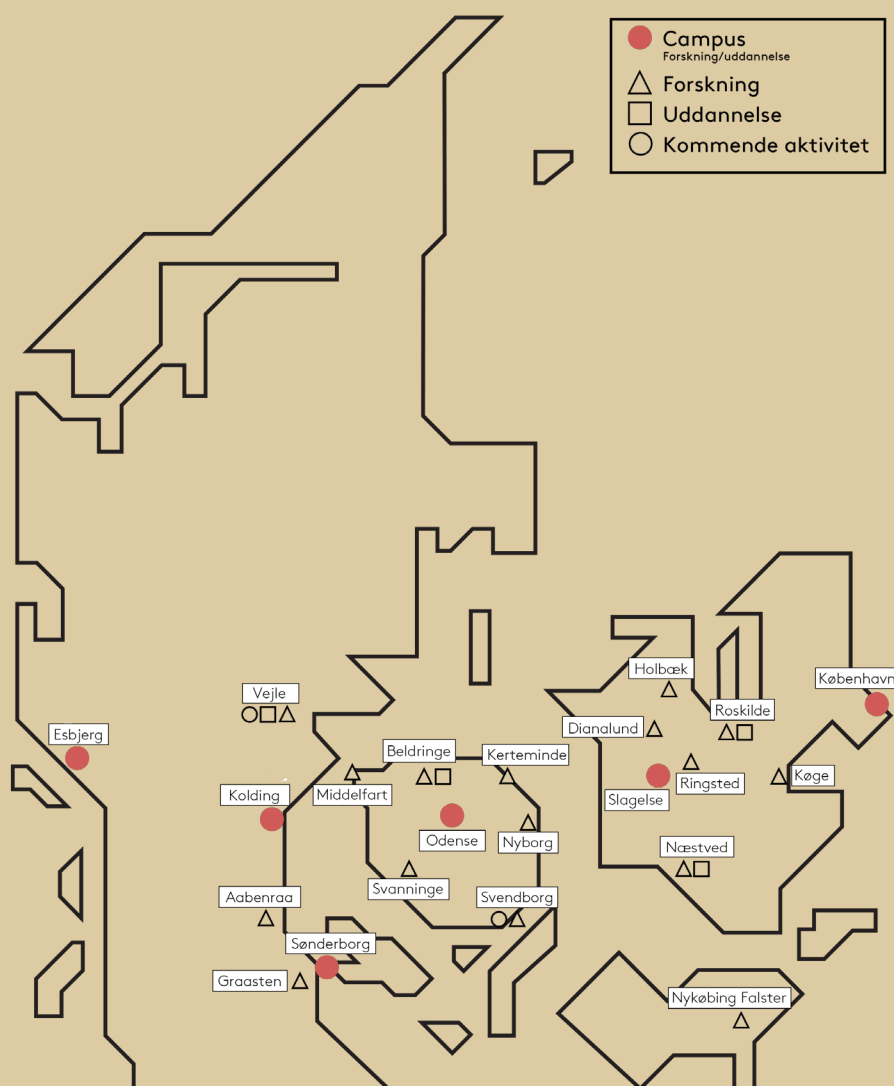


SDU's institutional plan for the political agreement on more and better educational opportunities throughout Denmark.



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Preamble

On 25 June 2021, the Government and a number of political parties entered into a political agreement on the framework for 'More and better educational opportunities throughout Denmark'. Each university (and other institutions of higher education) must therefore submit an institutional plan until 2030 for the reduction of the intake of students in the four largest cities in Denmark and for the relocation of student places to cities outside the four largest cities.

In early October 2021, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science sent a template, which each educational institution must complete and return to the Agency no later than on 12 January 2022.

This memo is SDU's answer to the various elements of the institutional plan and the structure follows the headings of the template. The institutional plan describes how the University intends to comply with the political agreement on more and better educational opportunities throughout Denmark. The full political agreement can be read in Danish [here](#).

The plan is a memorandum that must be included in an overall sector plan for the universities to be finalised in spring 2022 through negotiations with the parties to the agreement.

While SDU will strengthen the University's regional position, this should not be at the expense of a reduction of SDU's student places in Odense. In the coming negotiations, the University will argue that SDU's large regional presence must be taken into account by the parties to the agreement, so that the requirement for a 10% reduction in Odense can be eased significantly.

SDU's management finds that, until 2025, the plan:

- will not affect students who have already been admitted and enrolled at SDU, in relation to their opportunities for completing their planned education programmes.
- will not result in involuntary redundancies of employees. Once the final plan has been approved by the political parties in spring 2022, staff affected by relocations will receive further information on this.

There are a number of basic assumptions and uncertainties associated with SDU's institutional plan. SDU's institutional plan is generally dependent on the overall sector plan, the further political process and approval as well as the economic funding of the plan.

0.0 Management considerations on the approach to the task

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) has read with great interest the political agreement of 25 June 2021 on 'More and better educational opportunities throughout Denmark' based on a political ambition to create a new balance in the supply of higher education programmes. SDU will contribute to supporting the ambition of offering more regional education programmes.

SDU was established in 1998 through a merger between Odense University (Odense), Southern Denmark Business School (Kolding), Southern Denmark School of Engineering (Sønderborg) and South Jutland University Centre (Esbjerg). SDU has since expanded through further mergers, including with Odense University College of Engineering (Odense) in 2006 and with Business School Centre Slagelse (Slagelse) in 2007. Ever since 1998, SDU has thus conducted regionally anchored education and research activities at several locations: Sønderborg, Esbjerg, Kolding, Odense, Slagelse and Copenhagen. As the only university in Denmark, SDU thus has strong regional anchoring, with approximately 20% of SDU's current student intake being outside Odense (in comparison, the seven other universities have 1-4% of their student intake outside the four largest cities).

For 23 years, SDU has shown that it contributes to the local and regional agendas, and this also applies to SDU's compliance with the political ambition for a new geographical balance of higher education programmes. SDU already has close relations with local players – regions, municipalities, institutions, companies and the business sector. In collaboration with these relations, SDU will establish an even wider range of relevant regional education programmes and continue to create attractive regional study environments and collaborative relations, thus making it possible to attract students and retain graduates locally after they have completed their studies.

SDU is a classic multi-faculty university delivering world-class research. SDU's main campus in Odense has very strong core academic competences in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences and engineering. and SDU's campuses in Sønderborg, Esbjerg, Kolding and Slagelse have very strong research environments within demarcated fields. In the coming years, SDU will work even more to strengthen the University's campus profiles outside Odense with the aim being to establish more strong and exciting research and education environments.

SDU will further strengthen its regional distinctiveness in the coming years by maintaining and ensuring close affiliation between SDU's individual campuses and SDU's main campus. The academic environments are very good at collaborating across geographies and disciplines, which is a great strength for research and education for the benefit of society and the regional environments. SDU will focus on the increased regionalisation being based on high quality, relevance and sustainability in the programmes. For SDU, it is thus essential that these parameters are not disregarded and that the supply of regionally anchored education programmes are sustainable, both academically and financially.

As a university, SDU has many strengths that can play a constructive role in the political ambitions for a new geographical balance of higher education programmes. But SDU also has a significant vulnerability. The prerequisite for SDU's ability to operate a well-functioning campus structure outside Odense is precisely that SDU in Odense remains a research and education powerhouse. A reduction of the student intake in Odense, to the extent envisaged in the political agreement, will thus not only weaken Odense and the surrounding towns and cities on Funen. It will also challenge SDU's entire campus structure in Esbjerg, Kolding, Sønderborg, Slagelse and Copenhagen, as the education and research environments are interconnected across the whole of SDU.

SDU therefore strongly urges that the parties to the agreement ease the imposed requirement for a reduction of 10% of the student places in Odense – equal to 665 student places. A fairer reduction requirement for SDU is 3-5%. In return, SDU will

contribute to building up education programmes outside the four largest cities which can meet the ambitions in the political agreement. Needs and opportunities can be clarified in connection with the establishment of the sector plan.

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science has requested SDU to provide a plan for reductions of 10% by 2030 relative to the 2019 baseline. SDU complies with this request through this institutional plan. But SDU does not hope that the reduction requirements from the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science contained in the institutional plan will be realised, as SDU already today has approximately 20% of its student places outside Odense. If SDU were to reduce its student places in Odense by 10%, SDU will have to reconsider several aspects of the submitted institutional plan, and SDU cannot promise that it will be able to build up the supply of new regional education programmes as proposed in the plan.

SDU will approach the task of complying with the political agreement in two phases to meet the reduction requirement of 10% in Odense, equal to 665 student places in 2030:

- The first phase runs until 2025, in which SDU will meet 50% of the compliance requirement for reduction and relocation, equal to 330 student places in 2025.
- The second phase runs from 2026 to 2030, in which SDU will meet the remaining 50% of the compliance requirement for reduction and relocation, equal to 335 student places in 2030.

In addition, SDU will build up further student places outside Odense, as SDU plans to establish new programme activities in a number of cities, while also increasing the activity level in a number of relocated education programmes.

The first phase will be more specifically described in main areas, while the second phase will be more generally described.

This plan constitutes SDU's best bid for an institutional plan, and SDU looks forward to entering into a dialogue with the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science with a view to converting the plan into a rider to the strategic framework contract 2022-2025.

SDU uses the following definitions for relocation, build-up and reduction of intake and student places:

- 1) Relocation is the number of student places that the University moves from the intake in Odense to the intake outside Odense. The relocated places will be part of the number of reduced places in Odense.
- 2) Build-up is the number of student places with which the University increases the number of relocated places (for example SDU increases the number of relocated places in Political Science in Sønderborg), and new education programmes which the University establishes without reduction or relocation (for example Law in Esbjerg and education programmes in Vejle).
- 3) Reduction is the number of student places by which the University scales down the intake in Odense.

1.1 Management considerations on relocation and downscaling

SDU's considerations on relocation and reduction cover multiple themes:

1. SDU's distinctive features with strong core academic competences, collaboration and regional anchoring
2. Criteria for reduction and relocation/build-up
3. Two-step strategy for relocation, build-up and reduction

Re 1. SDU's distinctive features with strong core academic competences, collaboration and regional anchoring

SDU still finds it crucial to maintain its profile as a multi-faculty university with strong faculties in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences and engineering. For society, employers, students and employees, it is a great strength that the University boasts strong core academic competences at all five faculties. SDU has formulated an institutional plan that aims at the University's core academic competences and strong research and education environments being maintained and strengthened in the coming years.

SDU's core academic competences and strong academic environments promote new perspectives, knowledge and competences for the University's students and many partners. This applies not least in Odense with the completely unique – both in Denmark and internationally – establishment of a cohesive university and specialised super hospital, when SDU and Odense University Hospital (OUH) will be physically connected in 2024. There is huge potential in Odense for creating a translational hub in Odense, as an interaction between research and new knowledge as well as practice orientation and welfare creation for society.

SDU's unique regional campus structure with education and research activities in Sønderborg, Esbjerg, Kolding, Slagelse and Copenhagen will be a significant lever for SDU to contribute to meeting the political ambitions for a new geographical balance of higher education programmes. SDU will offer regional research-based education, as this provides the greatest value for students, staff and the surrounding society.

Re 2. Criteria for reduction and relocation/build-up

It follows from the political agreement of 25 June 2021 that the institutional plans must take into account the needs of public employers and the corporate sector as well as the continued supply of education programmes with particularly high demand and employment, e.g. IT education programmes and technical education programmes. The plan must also take into account that there is still a wide range of education programmes in Denmark, including small subjects and languages, that good geographical spread of the education programmes offered is ensured without the offered programmes being in unnecessary competition with each other, that the different institutions have different geographical conditions, and that strong research environments are still ensured as well as world-class research and strong interdisciplinarity.

Against this background, SDU's Board has decided a number of reduction and relocation criteria:

- Unemployment. The criterion focuses on reducing intake on education programmes with high graduate unemployment. The criterion follows from SDU's objective not to produce graduates simply to join the ranks of the unemployed. Based on the absolute unemployment figures, SDU has prepared scenarios for reduction of the intake in individual education programme areas.
- Educational quality. The criterion focuses on reducing intake on programmes that have red indicators in SDU's quality assurance system. This may, for example, be high drop-out rates or low study intensity.
- Strategic considerations. The criterion focuses on including any strategic considerations. For example, SDU's overall portfolio of education programmes, geographical conditions and/or sectoral considerations.

Regarding relocation and build-up, SDU's management has worked to prepare clearer campus profiles, which will create better opportunities for academic and professional collaboration at SDU as well as for collaboration with the surrounding society at SDU's various locations. A campus profile is thus a unique narrative about the special facilities that a campus city can offer students, companies and society. The campus profile is a benchmark for which education and research activities which SDU intends to place at the geographical location.

The preliminary considerations on campus profiles in SDU's existing campus cities are:

- Odense. Multi-faculty (all faculties present), core academic competences and translational hub (rapid implementation of knowledge in society)
- Kolding. Design, entrepreneurship, communication, data and environment
- Esbjerg. Society (law and commerce) and Health (medicine, public health and sports)
- Sønderborg. Engineering, European and international conditions
- Slagelse. Society (commerce and business languages) and Health (health sciences)
- Copenhagen. Health (National Institute of Public Health) and public sector services

SDU is also considering building up programme activities in Vejle (IT, engineering and health) and Svendborg (maritime).

Re 3. Two-step strategy for relocation, build-up and reduction

SDU will approach the task of complying with the political agreement in two phases to meet the reduction requirement of 10% in Odense, equal to 665 student places in 2030: First phase until 2025 and second phase until 2030.

First phase until 2025

The first phase runs until 2025, in which SDU will meet 50% of the compliance requirement for 665 student places in 2030, equal to a reduction of approx. 330 student places. This phase coincides with the period for the strategic framework contract between the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and SDU in the period 2022-2025.

In this phase, SDU will prepare specific proposals for relocation/build-up of education programmes and activities on existing campuses in Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Kolding and Slagelse. SDU is also in the process of clarifying the opportunities for initiating programme activities at other locations in the Region of Southern Denmark – specifically in Vejle and Svendborg. SDU intends to increase the number of student places outside Odense by more than the reduction requirement, so that the University contributes to the political ambitions of offering more regional education programmes.

SDU will state reductions at main area level, but SDU will not specify reductions in individual education programmes. One main reason for this is that, in the coming years, SDU needs to be able to continuously adapt its portfolio of education programmes to the competence requirements of society. SDU will therefore adopt a close framework management of its student intake in relation to student places in Odense to ensure that the University's overall framework can continuously be adapted to the requirements of society. Until 2025, SDU may therefore need to adjust the specific reductions – within the overall framework – in light of the overall development.

With the 2019 baseline announced under the political agreement, SDU is forced to cut more than 330 student places in the period until 2025, as the University has had growth in its student intake since 2019. including in education programmes with high demand for graduates, for example in the Master's degree programme in Data Science.

Second phase until 2030

The second phase runs from 2026 to 2030, in which SDU will meet the compliance requirement for the remaining 50% of the compliance requirement of a 10% reduction, equal to 335 places. This phase coincides with the period for the strategic framework contract between the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and SDU in 2026-2030.

In the second phase, SDU will continue to support the political ambitions in the agreement on a new geographical balance of higher education programmes. SDU will prepare a new overall strategy for SDU's portfolio of education programmes, and will strengthen the University's campus profiles outside Odense. In addition, SDU will build up and relocate education activities to the campus cities where there is a societal need for this and where it makes academic and economic sense for the University.

In the second phase, SDU will also focus on ensuring the right balance in relation to reductions in its Bachelor's, Master's and Professional Bachelor's programmes, respectively. This must be seen in close correlation with the preparation of the overall strategy for SDU's portfolio of education programmes, as the balance between the intake of Bachelor and Master students at SDU must also be included as part of this strategy.

During the period, SDU will also focus on including the demographic development in SDU's decisions on the education programmes offered across SDU's geographies.

Overall, SDU's plan to relocate and build up new education programmes outside Odense is as follows:

	Number of student places First phase 2019-2025	Number of student places Second phase 2026-2030	Total number of student places in the period 2019-2030
SDU expects to relocate the following number of student places from Odense (Data is shown in Table 1.2)	316		316
SDU expects to establish and build up the following number of student places outside Odense (Data is shown in Table 1.3)	367	528	895
Total number of student places	683	528	1211

If SDU is to meet the full reduction requirement of 10% of the student places in Odense, the reduction will be distributed as follows:

	Number of student places First phase 2019-2025	Number of student places Second phase 2026-2030	Total number of student places in the period 2019-2030
If SDU is to meet a reduction requirement of 10% in Odense, student places will be reduced by the following number: (Data is shown in Table 1.4)	330	335	665

1.2 Number of places to be relocated

Programme area	Number of places with activity	Year of expected relocation	Relocation from city	Specific education programme	Comments
The Faculty of Humanities	35	2023	Odense	IBC English	Slagelse
Science	20	2023	Odense	Climate Adaptation	Kolding Created in 2021
Science	20	2023	Odense	Environmental Chemistry and Management	Kolding Created in 2021
Science	70	2023	Odense	Data Science	Kolding
Business and Social Sciences	34	2023	Odense	MSc Profile – Human Resource Management	Slagelse
Business and Social Sciences	14	2023	Odense	Welfare – Political Science	Sønderborg A total intake of 30 places is expected. Of these, 14 places have been relocated and 16 places are new places. See Table 1.3.
Business and Social Sciences	31	2025	Odense	Master's degree in Journalism – Cand.public	Kolding
Health Sciences	37	2023	Odense	Public Health Science	Slagelse A total intake of 50 places is expected. Of these, 37 places have been relocated and 13 places are new places. See Table 1.3.
Health Sciences	30	2022	Odense	Medicine	Esbjerg
Health Sciences	25	2023	Odense	Sports and Health Competitive and elite sports	Esbjerg
Total	316				

SDU is planning a relocation of student places, totalling 316 student places as at 1 October 2025. Pre-qualification of the education programmes is presupposed.

1.3 Number of places in new education programmes

Programme area	Number of places	Year of expected establishment	City	Specific education programme	Comments
Business and Social Sciences, Bachelor's degree	50	2023	Esbjerg	Law	New education programme Will be submitted for prequalification on 1 February 2022
Business and Social Sciences, Master's degree	40	2026	Esbjerg	Law	New education programme Will be submitted for prequalification on 1 February 2022
Business and Social Sciences, Master's degree	50	2023	Slagelse	Business Economics	Relocated education programme
Science, 1-year superstructure education programme	20	2023	Kolding	Aquatic Nature Conservation and Restoration	New education programme
Business and Social Sciences, Master's degree	16	2023	Sønderborg	Welfare – Political Science	Relocated education programme and new places. A total intake of 30 places is expected. Of these, 14 places have been relocated and 16 places are new places. See Table 1.2.
Health Sciences, Bachelor's degree	13	2024	Slagelse	Clinical Psychology	New education programme. The education programme is offered in a collaboration with UCPH and with a total of 26 places
Health Sciences, Master's degree	13	2027	Slagelse	Clinical Psychology	New education programme. The education is offered in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and with a total of 26 places
Health Sciences, Bachelor's degree	75	2024 (2025)	Sønderborg	Psychology, Health and Welfare Technology	New education programme. SDU is exploring the opportunities of establishing a new education programme in this field.
Health Sciences, Master's degree	75	2027 (2028)	Sønderborg	Psychology, Health and Welfare Technology	New education programme. SDU is exploring the opportunities of establishing a new education programme in this field.

Health Sciences, Master's degree	13	2023	Slagelse	Public Health Science	Relocated education programme and new places. A total intake of 50 places is expected. Of these, 37 places have been relocated and 13 places are new places. See Table 1.2.
Engineering programme, Bachelor of Engineering	30	2023	Svendborg	Maritime Technology or, alternatively, a Mechanical Engineering programme with a maritime profile.	New education programme. Since the summer of 2021, SDU has been in a dialogue with SIMAC on the possibility of SDU establishing and offering a Bachelor of Engineering programme at SIMAC in Svendborg.
Science, Technology and Health Sciences	Approx. 500	2023-2030	Vejle	Education programmes in IT, Health and Engineering	New education programmes. SDU has entered into a declaration of intent with the Municipality of Vejle and DANDY Business Park to explore the opportunities of establishing new education programmes in these fields. The annual intake of 500 places on completion of phasing in.
Total	Approx. 895	2023-3030			

1.4 Number of places to be scaled down

Programme area	Number of places with activity	Expected year for downscaling	City	Specific education programme	Comments
The Faculty of Humanities	132	2023-2025	Odense	-	First phase in SDU's two-step strategy.
Science	48	2023-2025	Odense	-	SDU is already complying with its regional obligation with education programmes being offered in Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Kolding and Slagelse, equal to approximately 20% of the intake. SDU also expects to relocate and build up student places equal to the reduction requirement. However, SDU does not expect having to reduce places by more than 3-5% by 2030.
Business and Social Sciences	48	2023-2025	Odense	-	
Health Sciences	48	2023-2025	Odense	-	
Engineering	54	2023-2025	Odense	-	
Total	330	As of 1 Oct. 2025	Odense		
SDU	335	As of 1 Oct. 2026-2030	Odense		Second phase of SDU's two-step strategy. SDU is already complying with its regional obligation with education programmes being offered in Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Kolding and Slagelse, equal to about 20% of the intake. SDU also expects to relocate and build up student places equal to the reduction requirement. However, SDU does not expect having to reduce places by more than 3-5% by 2030.
Total	665	As of 1 October 2030	Odense		Overall for the whole period

1.5 Description of regional elements

SDU supplies high-quality research-based education programmes, both regionally and internationally. SDU already has good experiences with students' internships and academic assignment projects being spread across Denmark in collaboration with players in the labour market. However, there are many considerations that must be taken into account when permanent parts of the education programmes are to be located in a given geographical area. Therefore, SDU is exploring the possibilities at the beginning of the period to establish what can be successfully implemented later in the period – i.e. after 2025. In the coming years, SDU will therefore be in a continuous dialogue with the surrounding community to clarify the need and opportunities for regional activities.

1.6 Regional elements

SDU has not planned specific regional elements at present.

1.7 Special considerations

SDU is a regionally anchored classic university at an international level driven by value creation for and with society. SDU recognises the political ambition of a new geographical balance in the supply of higher education programmes, and the University will contribute to realising the ambition of an increased supply of regional education programmes.

SDU's announced institutional plan is a result of the Danish Agency of Higher Education and Science having requested the University to prepare: A plan to reduce the University's student places by 10% in Odense by 2030. However, SDU does not find that a reduction of 10% of the student intake in Odense is fair and reasonable, and SDU would like the 10% requirement to be eased, for example to a reduction requirement of 3-5%.

SDU's arguments for easing the 10% reduction requirement significantly are as follows:

1. SDU is already present in four cities outside Odense with approximately 20% of the University's student intake.
2. SDU needs a strong campus in Odense to support the regional presence
3. SDU supports local and regional companies in and around Odense
4. SDU finds that a student intake reduction impairs SDU's opportunities for contributing with in-demand Bachelors of Engineering
5. SDU is concerned about being limited in relation to student places with very high demand.

Elaboration of the arguments:

Re 1. SDU is already present in four cities outside Odense with approximately 20% of the University's student intake.

SDU is already today the most decentralised and regional university in Denmark with approx. 20% of its student intake being outside Odense (in comparison, the seven other universities have 1-4% of their student intake outside the four largest cities). If SDU has to relocate an additional 10% of its student intake, SDU will end up with about 30% of its student intake being outside Odense, which is significantly higher than the other universities, which will have 0-10% located outside their main campus after the relocation. In other words, with SDU's current supply of regional education programmes, the University already complies with the political ambition of a 10% student intake outside the four largest cities.

Re 2. SDU needs a strong campus in Odense to support the regional presence

SDU embraces the regional agenda and has shown this since 1998. But regionalisation should not be at the expense of SDU's activity in Odense, which is the core of the University's activities and is thus also an essential prerequisite for SDU's ability to run campus cities successfully. All five faculties are established in Odense, and Campus Odense thus functions as an academic powerhouse. Researchers and lecturers in Sønderborg, Esbjerg, Kolding, Slagelse and Copenhagen are part of research groups based in Odense. At the same time, SDU Odense is an economic powerhouse in SDU's campus structure, which provides opportunities for making local investments in Sønderborg, Esbjerg, Kolding and Slagelse. For example, the build-up of engineering programmes in Sønderborg and the education programme in medicine in Esbjerg has required co-funding from Odense. Further relocation and build-up of education programmes outside Odense will also require economic support from SDU in Odense. A reduction of SDU in Odense will weaken the entire University's regional location and strength.

SDU will use the regionalisation agenda to expand the University's already strong regional anchoring and to strengthen the good relations with local players – regions, municipalities, institutions and companies. SDU does not find it expedient to weaken the University's activities in Odense, as a strong main campus in Odense since 1998 has precisely been essential in SDU's regional anchoring since 1998.

Re 3. SDU supports local and regional companies in and around Odense

Today, SDU supports locally and regionally based companies in and around Odense. For example, SDU focuses on establishing strong collaborations with Funen-based companies and public organisations around Odense to ensure qualified labour throughout Funen. This applies to the Faculty of Health Sciences with the link to OUH (which will be merged in 2024), the Faculty of Engineering, which supports, among other activities, the strong robotics cluster with +100 companies (Odense Robotics), the Faculty of Science, which supports, among others, IT companies and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, which, for example, supports the business sector with mercantile graduates, and the Faculty of Humanities, which, for example, supports the region with teachers for upper secondary schools and youth education programmes on Funen and in the Region of Southern Denmark. A reduction in the student intake in Odense will therefore have a negative effect on local and regional companies and public organisations.

SDU is of absolutely vital importance to the local ecosystem of companies and public institutions. If SDU is not strongly represented in Odense, there is a risk that the talents will completely leave the region to the detriment of local and regional companies which are demanding qualified labour.

Re 4. SDU finds that a student intake reduction impairs SDU's opportunities for contributing with in-demand Bachelors of Engineering.

SDU finds that the reduction of Bachelors of Engineering (professional bachelors) is particularly problematic, as Bachelors of Engineering from SDU in Odense have a very low unemployment rate and directly support the local companies. Against this background, SDU is of the opinion that Bachelors of Engineering should be completely left out of baseline 2019. With baseline 2019, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science proposes that SDU is to cut 59 student places on its Bachelor of Engineering programmes.

In relation to the Government's objectives, there may also be a need to be able to increase the intake of technical Bachelors of Engineering up to 2030, which means that the intake of Bachelors of Engineering at SDU should not be subject to an admissions ceiling in 2030 either.

Re 5. SDU is concerned about being limited in relation to student places with very high demand.

SDU has a strong focus on being able to continue to offer and build up education programmes with high demand. This applies both in Odense and in the other cities where SDU is present. This is not least applicable to the Master's degree programme in Data Science, which has grown from an intake of 48 students in 2019 to an intake of 131 students in 2021, as well as the three new engineering programmes in Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Civil Engineering, respectively. Data Science gives students from all of SDU's different faculties competences to work with data with private and public employers. The growth in IT education programmes should be kept out of the target figure for SDU's student intake in Odense in 2030, to enable SDU to educate technically, IT and data competent graduates – also in Odense – for a society that is undergoing a digital transformation. A student intake restriction in Odense will impair SDU's opportunities to supply education programmes with high demand, which is inexpedient in relation to the needs of society. A strong environment in Odense will also be a prerequisite for our ability to supply sustainable IT education programmes in, for example, Vejle.

Summary

As outlined above, SDU is already today a regionally anchored university with education activities in Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Kolding and Slagelse in addition to in Odense. SDU wants to contribute to the regional agenda and has proven this with great strength since the establishment of the University of Southern Denmark in 1998. A 10% reduction of student places in Odense envisaged by the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science will not be in the best interest of society, as it impairs

SDU's opportunities to supply in-demand graduates to growth companies and to have a well-functioning regional campus structure.

SDU therefore appeals to the parties to the agreement to ease the imposed requirement for a reduction of 10% of the student places in Odense – equal to 665 student places. A fairer reduction requirement for SDU is 3-5% in 2030. With a reduction requirement of 3-5% in Odense, SDU will be able to maintain the University's plans for extensive relocation and build-up outside Odense.

1.8 Special considerations – overview

The table shows an overview of SDU's ordinary education programmes outside Odense (as of 1 October 2021). A total of 1,507 students have been admitted outside Odense. This overview shows that, with SDU's current supply of regional education programmes, the University already complies with far more than the political ambition of a 10% student intake outside the four largest cities.

Programme area	Type of education programme	Number of places outside Odense (1 Oct. 2021 intake)	Campus city	Education programme
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	28	Kolding	Library Science and Knowledge Communication
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	40	Kolding	Design culture
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	37	Kolding	Design Culture and Economics
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	20	Kolding	Information Studies, IT and Interaction Design
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	39	Sønderborg	International Business Administration with Foreign Languages (BA int.)
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	12	Kolding	IBC – English
The Faculty of Humanities	Bachelor's degree	74	Slagelse	IBC – English
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	40	Kolding	MSc in Information Technology – Product Design
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	39	Sønderborg	MSc in Business, Language and Culture
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	26	Kolding	Design Management
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	10	Kolding	Design Studies
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	32	Kolding	Business, Language and Culture
The Faculty of Humanities	Master's degree	95	Kolding	Web Communication
The Faculty of Humanities	Professional Bachelor's degree	37	Slagelse	Foreign Languages and Digital Marketing Communication (English)
Business and Social Sciences	Bachelor's degree	34	Esbjerg	Business Economics, BSc
Business and Social Sciences	Bachelor's degree	74	Kolding	Business Economics, BSc
Business and Social Sciences	Bachelor's degree	143	Slagelse	Business Economics, BSc
Business and Social Sciences	Bachelor's degree	58	Sønderborg	Business Economics, BSc
Business and Social Sciences	Bachelor's degree	31	Sønderborg	European Studies
Business and Social	Bachelor's de-	45	Esbjerg	Sociology and Cultural Analysis

Sciences	gree			
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	32	Esbjerg	MSc
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	118	Kolding	MSc
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	2	Kolding	Industrial MSc
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	84	Kolding	MSc in Business Economics and Auditing
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	45	Kolding	MSc in Business Economics and Auditing, Industrial MSc
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	21	Esbjerg	Cultural Sociology
Business and Social Sciences	Master's degree	34	Esbjerg	Environmental and Resource Management
Health Sciences	Master's degree	84	Esbjerg	Public Health Science
Engineering	Bachelor's degree	5	Sønderborg	MSc in Mechanical Engineering
Engineering	Bachelor's degree	9	Sønderborg	MSc in Electronics
Engineering	Bachelor's degree	22	Sønderborg	MSc in Engineering, Innovation and Business
Engineering	Bachelor's degree	19	Sønderborg	MSc in Mechatronics
Engineering	Master's degree	17	Sønderborg	MSc in Electronics
Engineering	Master's degree	9	Sønderborg	MSc in Engineering, Innovation and Business
Engineering	Master's degree	23	Sønderborg	MSc in Mechatronics
Engineering	Professional Bachelor's degree	7	Sønderborg	Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
Engineering	Professional Bachelor's degree	17	Sønderborg	Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics
Engineering	Professional Bachelor's degree	45	Sønderborg	Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics
Total number of places		1507		

1.9 Collaboration with other institutions and/or players

SDU has extensive experience in entering into strong collaborations with other educational institutions, municipalities/regions and companies, as collaborations and partnerships create the best local anchoring to the benefit of society. A completely unique feature of SDU as a Danish university is that SDU share several physical locations with university colleges, which opens up for exciting opportunities for students, study environments, graduates and prospective employers across the educational institutions. In connection with the realisation of the 2030 plan, SDU will also work to enter into interdisciplinary collaborations.

Below, examples are listed of already existing collaborations and/or new planned collaborations:

Odense

SDU is already working closely with the Region of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital, Municipality of Odense, UCL University College, Science Parks of Southern Denmark and Freja Ejendomme A/S to develop a new large knowledge and growth area in Odense, called 'Campus Odense', which is a triple-helix collaboration aimed at promoting growth and development in robot technology as well as health and welfare innovation (see link).

SDU intends to strengthen its collaboration with UCL University College further in connection with the 2030 plan – both in Odense and in other geographical locations such as Vejle and Svendborg where UCL is present.

Slagelse

SDU has long worked closely with the Municipality of Slagelse and the business community in Slagelse to ensure good and early connections between students and companies (also called the 'Slagelse model'). This collaboration will be strengthened in the coming years.

In connection with the 2030 plan, SDU and the Municipality of Slagelse entered into a partnership agreement in November 2021 with the shared ambition to make Slagelse an attractive city of studies. SDU intends to relocate more education programmes to Slagelse, and the Municipality of Slagelse will make facilities available.

In Slagelse, SDU is also part of a collaboration with University College Absalon, as Absalon has taken a completely new building into use in 2021. The building is next door to SDU. The two institutions are working to create joint study environments and academic collaborations.

SDU expects to relocate and build up the following education programmes:

- The Bachelor's degree programme in Public Health Science
- The Master's degree programmes International Business Communication (IBC)
- MSc in Economics and Business Administration – Human Resource Management
- In collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, SDU expects to be able to offer a Bachelor's degree programme and a Master's degree programme in Clinical Psychology.

SDU will also seek collaboration with RUC and Region Zealand aimed at supporting each other's activities in the rest of Zealand, where SDU is also present in the public health service with just over 70 employees (from PhD to professor level). This applies to Næstved, Slagelse and Ringsted Hospitals, Holbæk, Køge/Roskilde and Nykøbing Falster as well as the private epilepsy hospital Filadelfia.

Sønderborg

SDU has entered into unique collaboration with Danfoss, Linak, the Region of Southern Denmark and the Municipality of Sønderborg on investment in and build-up of research and education powerhouses in industrial electronics and industrial mechanics.

- SDU expects to build up and relocate the following education programmes:
- SDU is exploring the possibilities of establishing an education programme in Psychology, Health and Welfare Technology (a related education programme can be studied at the University of Twente, the Netherlands).
- Master's degree programme in Welfare – Political Science

SDU intends to strengthen its collaboration with companies and public players further in the coming years.

Esbjerg

In 2020, SDU moved into a new building, which is physically connected to University College South Denmark. In Esbjerg, joint study environments, library functions and academic collaborations are created across the two institutions in the same way as in Kolding. The institutional collaboration will be further developed in the coming years.

SDU and Aalborg University (AAU) have an ongoing dialogue on programme activities in Esbjerg, where SDU offers education programmes in social sciences and health sciences, and where AAU offers technical education programmes.

SDU has also had very close collaboration with the Region of Southern Denmark, Hospital South West Jutland, Little Belt Hospital, Hospital of Southern Jutland, Psychiatric Services, General Practice and the Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, which has resulted in SDU offering an education programme in medicine in Esbjerg from 2022.

In addition, SDU is part of a close collaboration with the Municipality of Esbjerg, Business Esbjerg and Education Esbjerg on the establishment of education programmes in law in Esbjerg from the summer of 2023.

As part of the build-up in Esbjerg in the coming years, SDU is first and foremost really looking forward to establishing:

- A brand new Bachelor's degree programme and Master's degree programme in Law
- Places on the Master's degree programme in Medicine
- A Master's degree programme in Sports and Health, Competition and Elite Sports

Kolding

SDU has entered into an agreement with University College South Denmark on joint physical location, as University College South Denmark is establishing a new building, which will be connected with SDU's building in Kolding. The joint location will be implemented from summer 2022, when University College South Denmark takes its new building into use. In Kolding, joint study environments, library functions and academic collaborations are created across the two institutions in the same way as in Esbjerg. The institutional collaboration will be further developed in the coming years.

SDU also works closely with Design School Kolding, the Municipality of Kolding and Business Kolding.

SDU expects to relocate and build up the following education programmes:

- A large number of places from the Master's degree programme in Data Science

- The Master's degree programme in Journalism. (Cand.public.)
- 1-year academic superstructure in Climate Adaptation
- 1-year academic superstructure in Environmental Chemistry and Management
- 1-year academic superstructure in Aquatic Nature Conservation and Restoration

Vejle

The companies in the Triangle Region are demanding labour with IT competences and technical skills. SDU would like to help meet the companies' needs. Therefore, SDU has ambitions to establish a new campus in Vejle, from which a range of education programmes will be offered in engineering, health and IT. The Municipality of Vejle and DANDY Business Park support these ambitions.

SDU expects to build the following education programmes:

- In the field of IT, education programmes are planned that are in demand by local companies, right from low-level software and AI to cloud-based system solutions as well as from back-end to user interfaces.
- In the field of engineering, MSc in Engineering programmes and Bachelor of Engineering programmes are planned in machines, materials, production, automation, operations, supply chains and food processing. All areas in which companies in the Triangle Region currently experience a great shortage of qualified labour.
- In the field of health, a further and continuing education programme for professional bachelors is planned. An education programme to which, for example, nurses who need to acquire new competences in use of the latest technology in health sciences can apply for admission.

When fully phased in, the plan will lead to approx. 2,000 students being admitted to SDU Vejle. SDU's ambition is to produce approx. 500 graduates a year who have competences that meet the requirements of the labour market in the Triangle Region.

SDU Campus Vejle is intended to be located in DANDY Business Park Vejle to ensure optimal interaction with the 200 companies and 1,000 highly educated employees who are already housed there, as well as with the many other companies within green transition, food and IT that operate in the Business Park.

Realisation of the plans for SDU Vejle requires significant investments in facilities and the construction of scientific environments. SDU, the Municipality of Vejle and DANDY Business Park have entered into a partnership aimed at establishing all the conditions necessary for realisation of the ambition, including funding, which is expected to come from multiple sources, including private foundations, companies, the municipality and the state.

SDU is also conducting a dialogue with UCL University College on possible collaborations in Vejle aimed at ensuring an attractive city of studies with an attractive study environment.

Svendborg

Since the summer of 2021, SDU has been in a dialogue with SIMAC on the possibility of SDU establishing and offering a Bachelor of Engineering programme at SIMAC in Svendborg. The intended Bachelor of Engineering programme will be within Maritime Technology, or, alternatively, a Mechanical Engineering programme with a maritime profile.

Such an education programme will, in terms of both contents and study environment, benefit greatly from a physical location together with the education programmes offered by SIMAC. Both institutions can see a great potential in SDU offering such an

education programme located in Svendborg. If the continued dialogue, including a further clarification of the needs, framework and conditions for the supply of education programmes, ends with a positive result, our intention is to implement a pre-qualification course for the education programme during 2022 in close interaction between SDU, SIMAC and the expected employers of graduates from the education programme. The target is to have the first study start on the education programme in September 2023.

SIMAC, UCL and SDU will be located physically close to each other in Svendborg, which provides a basis for entering into further institutional collaborations.

SDU expects to build up the following education programme:

- Bachelor of Engineering in Maritime Technology or, alternatively, a Mechanical Engineering programme with a maritime profile.



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