

PRIZE FOR INTERNATIONALISATION OF TEACHING AND
LEARNING
AT THE SWEDISH MEDICAL FACULTIES

NOMINEES 2026



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



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Sweden's medical faculties have set up a joint prize for the internationalisation of first and second-cycle education.

The prize has been installed in order to encourage teachers and teaching teams to actively raise the level of internationalisation in higher education by bringing an international dimension to their teaching and by improving the students' global perspective. Each participating university contributes to the prize with SEK 20 000. The prize is awarded biannually.

2026 there were five nominees or nominated teams for the prize:

- Thomas Carlsson, Gothenburg University
- Ida Persson Cofina and Andreas Vilhelmsson, Lund University
- Rachel Fisher, Louisa Cheung and Jurga Laurencikiene, Karolinska Institutet
- Maria Brohlin, Umeå University
- Mats Målqvist and Tryggve Nevéus, Uppsala University

The prize is awarded to the teacher/teaching team that has made a significant contribution to raising the level of internationalisation in higher education over the past three years.

This may be achieved, for example, through the development of virtual international course components, through a new teaching experience in the international classroom, or through initiatives that encourage student and teacher mobility or internationalisation of the curriculum.

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Karolinska Institutet

Rachel Fisher, Louisa Cheung and Jurga Laurencikiene

BalticSeaBioMed – an international education network in biomedicine

BalticSeaBioMed is an established Nordic-Baltic collaboration that, since 2013, has strengthened quality and international competitiveness in master's education in biomedicine. The network brings together six universities and is based on a shared ambition to exchange complementary expertise, teaching resources and research-based education across national borders.

Jointly developed online courses give students access to specialist expertise from across the region without leaving their home university. The courses are fully integrated into standard curricula, making internationalisation a natural part of the educational experience. In addition, annual international summer schools bring students and teachers together physically for in-depth collaboration on current biomedical and environmental topics.

A particularly innovative component is the development of a virtual pedagogical escape room that combines biomedical knowledge with issues of environment, ethics and sustainable development. This digital learning resource trains international teamwork skills and will be made available as an open educational resource.

At Karolinska Institutet, BalticSeaBioMed is of major strategic importance and engages a large number of students and teachers each year. The project demonstrates how long-term partnerships, digital solutions and shared responsibility can create inclusive, sustainable and high-quality internationalisation.

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University of Gothenburg

Thomas Carlsson

Internationalisation integrated into the Pharmacy programme

Under the leadership of Thomas Carlsson, the Pharmacy programme at the University of Gothenburg has developed a systematic and long-term approach in which internationalisation is fully integrated into educational quality. Rather than being an optional add-on, global perspectives are embedded in the programme structure, ensuring that all students encounter international experiences during their studies.

Through three clearly defined mobility windows – elective courses, degree projects and clinical placements – students are offered concrete and academically well-anchored opportunities to study abroad. This is particularly significant within a regulated professional programme, where flexibility is often limited. The work is built on long-term collaborations with international partner universities and a solution-oriented approach to credit recognition.

Thomas Carlsson has played a key role in making internationalisation visible and accessible. From the very first weeks of the programme, students receive information, inspiration and personal guidance regarding international opportunities. His high level of accessibility and continuous support have been crucial in lowering thresholds and creating confidence around studying abroad.

The initiative strengthens students' global competence through exposure to different healthcare systems, pharmaceutical practices and research environments. At the same time, internationalisation at home is promoted through English-taught courses and the integration of incoming students. The work is characterised by responsible international partnerships, sustainable mobility and a clear connection to global health challenges.

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Lund University – Faculty of Medicine

Ida Persson Cofina, Andreas Vilhelmsson

European network for climate and health in medical education

Through their engagement in the European Network for Climate and Health Education (ENCHE), Ida Persson Cofina and Andreas Vilhelmsson have strengthened the international, sustainable and research-based profile of medical education at Lund University. Their work has enabled the systematic integration of global perspectives on climate change and health into the curriculum.

As faculty representatives in the network, they actively participate in international working groups and contribute to the joint development of European teaching resources. These materials are now used in education, providing students with access to up-to-date, research-based perspectives on climate medicine, sustainable healthcare and professional responsibility in a global context.

The project also includes the development of international courses and educational materials that can be widely used within and beyond the medical programme, thereby strengthening both educational content and the faculty's international visibility.

The work is clearly rooted in principles of responsible internationalisation and the UN Agenda 2030. By linking international collaboration directly to teaching, the initiative contributes to long-term educational development and prepares future physicians for global health challenges.

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Umeå University

Maria Brohlin

Digital internationalisation focusing on antibiotic resistance

At Umeå University, a bilateral collaboration with FH Joanneum in Graz has developed into a sustainable and scalable example of internationalisation at home. The project is integrated into the Biomedical Laboratory Science programme and is built around jointly developed digital case studies on sepsis and antibiotic management.

In international student groups, diagnostic methods, treatment strategies, resistance patterns and national guidelines in Sweden and Austria are compared. This approach gives students a deeper understanding of how medical decisions are shaped by different healthcare systems and societal contexts.

The digital format enables participation for all students, regardless of access to physical mobility, while minimising climate impact. Teaching is case-based and interactive, promoting analysis, dialogue and professional responsibility. Designed with a strong focus on quality, legal compliance and long-term sustainability, the project represents a model transferable to other programmes. It contributes to increased global awareness of antibiotic resistance as one of today's major public health challenges.

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Uppsala University

Mats Målqvist, Tryggve Nevéus

Internationalisation as a quality-enhancing component of the study programme in Medicine

In connection with the development of the new medical programme at Uppsala University, internationalisation has been integrated as a central and quality-enhancing element. Even before the programme launch, strategic work was initiated to establish sustainable structures for global perspectives, mobility and international collaboration.

All students encounter global health through compulsory components that provide a foundational understanding of international health challenges and their relevance to Swedish healthcare. Further specialisation is offered through elective courses in global medicine, international clinical placements and designated mobility windows.

A key element of the initiative is an English-taught course in semester eight, where Swedish students study alongside incoming exchange students. This creates an international learning environment on campus and provides continuous opportunities for intercultural exchange without requiring all students to travel abroad.

As the faculty's largest educational programme, the initiative has significant impact and serves as an inspirational model for other programmes. The internationalisation work is firmly embedded in the programme's quality assurance system and is continuously followed up, ensuring sustainable development and high educational quality.

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