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Continuing Education at Lund University, Sweden

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LUND UNIVERSITY

Office for Continuing and Distance Education
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Continuing Education at Lund University, Sweden

Lifelong Learning

Rapid change and restructuring within society mean that there is continual fresh demand for competence and education. Learning over a whole lifetime has become fact, and for the education sector this presents new challenges. In response to this, Lund University recognises that a highly important aspect of the university's contact with the world outside is competence development for professionals. The 3rd mission for the Universities is therefore of high priority

To provide comprehensive service and support a special office has been established at Lund University, the Office for Lifelong Learning. A specialised education department, Lund Education AB, has also been formed, primarily to contract teaching to companies, public authorities and organisations.

Lund University is one of Swedens oldest Universities, with old traditions and also very well established on international base both for research and undergraduate courses. In year 1994 two important offices was established, Office for continuing and Distance Education and Centre for Information Technology in Education. Those two units together with the vice-chancellors and the Boards engagement for web-based learning and e-Learning both for regular education as well as for Continuing Education has been has been crucial for the development in the area and Lund University is also launched as an e-University.

Lund University took also the initiative to the Swedish Net University, which will be launched in 2002.

Policy regarding training and higher education

To meet the demand for continuing and market-driven education a considerable development has taken place. This comprises in part the establishment of a support organization for web-based education and the development of a large number of projects within competence development, which have been carried through in partnership with various partners, both national and international.

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The University's board has established a policy for training, higher education and competence development. A special tool- a learning management system- is also developed, LUVIT (Lund University Virtual Interactive Tool).

Policy at Lund University
Lifelong Learning a prioritised area
Flexibility and customer-awareness
Contribution to quality development
Education Company
Alliance and cooperation both
nationally and internationally

Organisation

So as to consistently meet organisations' and business's requirements of competence development and reflect the individual's requirements of lifelong learning, a particular structure has been developed at Lund University. A special policy group under the leadership of the chancellor has been established, as well as a group of professional project-leaders, with the various faculties all represented.

Distributed learning

Within Lund University over 250 web-based distance-courses are operational. These courses are aimed primarily at professionals or people who for various reasons cannot actually be in Lund. These web-based courses are available in most disciplines, including the humanities, law, medicine, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences and engineering.

Lund University also provides education at local centres across Skåne. Here participants in the courses receive the help needed to use computers as support in their education and to follow courses given via video presentations.

Commissioned Education

Lund University is involved in many projects in partnership with the business community and other organisations. Specially commissioned education is one example of this. This form of education gives companies, authorities and organisations the opportunity to commission and buy tailor-made courses from Lund University. The aim of these courses is to develop competence among the organisation's personnel.

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Learning Lund

Advancing into active learning and promoting student motivation, interest and activity, Lund University focuses on Learning Lund. Learning Lund merges pedagogy, pedagogic ICT and networking for learners. It emphasises insight through

Individual, collaborative and teacher-coached learning. It strives to unify the best values of campus and distance activities. For campus and distance studies alike, e-based didactic rooms support information identification and evaluation, modelling, simulation and visualisation with adaptive systems promoting flexible learning.
Learning Lund involves more than 100 collaborating specialists and enthusiasts developing research and new advanced learning tools for the future.

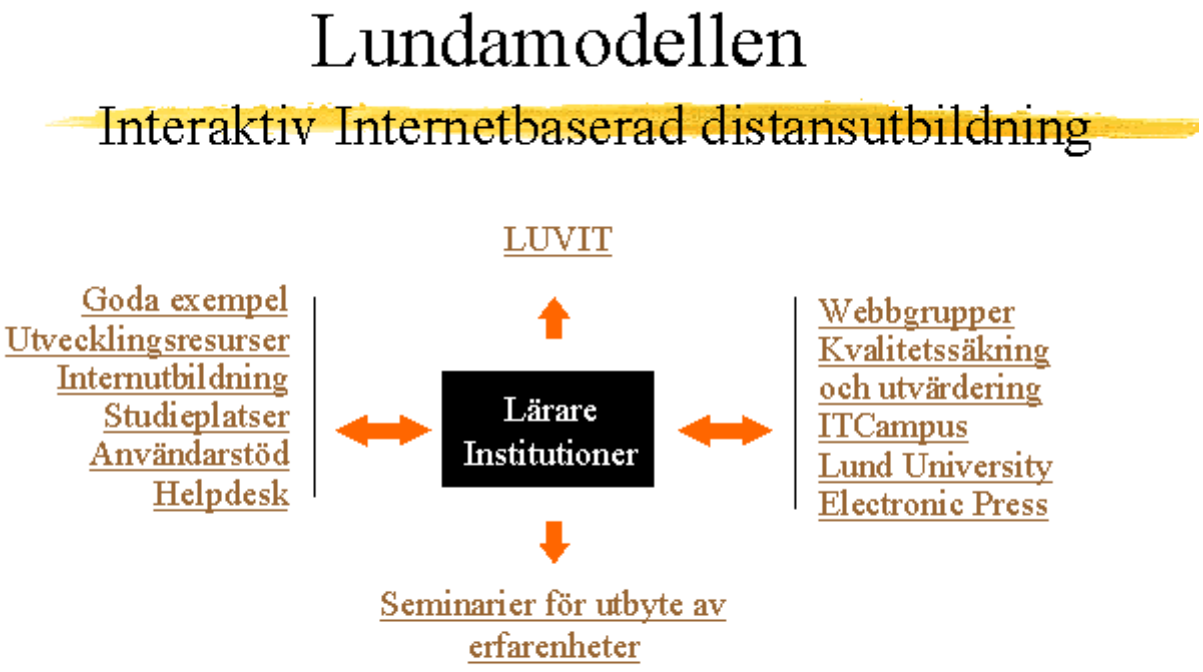

Fig. 1 “LUNDAMODELLEN”

LUNDAMODELLEN
Interactive Internet based Distans Education

LUVIT

Good Examples Recourses for development		↑	Web groups Quality Assurance and Evaluation
Internal Education	↔	Teachers ↔ Institutions	IT Campus
Study places			Lund University Electronic Press
User support Helpdesk		↓	

Seminars for experiences Exchange

Fig.1 Lundamodellen, translation

STRENGTH	OPPORTUNITIES
Strong support from the University Board Policy group Long tradition and experiences The Lundamodell" Development recourses Support resources Helpdesk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year Good infrastructure Students and teachers well equipped Quality Assurance Research	The Swedish net University Even better accessibility
WEAKNESS	**THREAT**
How to reach all teachers and not only The ones who are really enthusiastic	Increasing of recourse, eg financial

Some Policy documents and links for Higher Education, Continuing Education and Distributed Learning

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