



# DEAN'S DIGEST

## How 2023 education events will take us into 2024

*As we reflect on what 2023 brought to education, it's clear that there have been quite a few disruptions on the horizon, but faculty's steadfast commitment to academic excellence has helped us stay the course. Our learning community has made significant strides in strengthening the focus on the research-base of teaching and embarked on the journey of making ITU a university with a visible sustainability profile by integrating green IT competencies into curricula. Faculty, students, management and staff have embraced discussions on and adaptations to Generative AI and taken important steps towards developing an inclusive and attractive working and learning environment. At the very same time, ITU management has been attentive to the potential impact of the forthcoming educational reform. So, I would not call this a calm and quiet year, even though we all deserved that in the aftermath of Covid-19.*

*"A well  
educated mind  
will always have  
more questions  
than answers."  
Helen Keller*

## The Generative AI in Education agenda stretches into 2024

The Generative AI wave has probably been one of the most disruptive developments this year. All universities and teachers have been forced to relate to it in an education context. Many ITU students and staff already use generative AI on a daily basis, so we have been busy assessing the technology impact, experimenting, sharing knowledge, and developing guidelines in 2023. To prepare students to be proficient in the rapidly evolving field of AI much work still lies ahead. We must find ways to integrate these advanced AI tools properly into various courses and offering students hands-on experience with the latest in AI technology to enhance learning outcomes in an ethical, sustainable way, and in ways that enhances the learning quality. Don't forget our [free online GDPR awareness course](#) for students.

## A broader sustainability commitment at ITU

In line with the urgent need for global sustainability efforts, the Center for Climate IT has made substantial efforts to create awareness of the green agenda and develop the research and events needed to build green competencies among students and staff. ITU has been a slow mover in this field, so it is time to speed up our efforts. Including green competencies in our Employability profiles and initiating a campus-wide strategy process are important, but insufficient steps in a continuous journey to give ITU a

convincing sustainability profile. In 2024, we will be taking sustainable technology and practices into consideration by expanding the supply of sustainable IT course contents in ordinary education, summer school, and professional courses along with campus-wide green initiatives.

### Emphasis on Research-Based Learning

To show-case ITU faculty's commitment to academic rigor and to recognize and nurture diverse teaching styles, we intensified our focus on research-based learning in 2023. This initiative encourages faculty to share their (best) practices and to visualize to students how they engage in research-based teaching and learning activities from early in their academic journey, under the guidance of our esteemed faculty. The inspiring and dynamic [portfolio of curricular as well as extra-curricular research-based learning and teaching examples](#) will hopefully enrich the learning experience and increase the student engagement as well as overlap between research, teaching, and industry involvement in 2024.

### Revamping the Teaching Assistant (TA) Processes

2023 witnessed a strategic overhaul of our TA processes. ITU is now introducing a more rigorous recruitment and hiring process for TAs and faculty, ensuring, among other things, that the TA role provides opportunities for recruiting a more diverse pool of students. We believe that making the TA process more effective, transparent, and student-centric will reduce unnecessary friction and improve teaching and learning quality.

### Educational Reform: A New Era of Learning

This year marked a forthcoming pivotal shift in education. Together with all Danish universities, ITU faces a comprehensive educational reform focused on flexible and practice-based learning models and modularized education in extension of traditional MSc structures. 2024 will shed more light on how this political vision may turn into a feasible reality, but there is no doubt it will demand our attention and participation.

### Fostering an Inclusive Learning Environment

Another educational focus this year has been on building an inclusive learning environment. The 2023 action plan was announced by the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, including workshops for all faculty, "mini workshops" for our Heads of Study programme, and introduction for new students. Moreover, a student-targeted campaign called "[Here to help](#)" has recently been launched. We will continue in 2024 to implement supportive workplace practices among our staff and faculty as this is vital for embracing the diverse community we serve.

### Looking Ahead

In 2024, I will resume (C)office hours in Analog. Do you have ideas, issues or questions related to your courses, study programme or the study environment at ITU that you would like to share and discuss with me in an informal setting? Then join me for a chat and a coffee in Analog the 8<sup>th</sup> of January from 12-1 pm and subsequently alternate Mondays.

As we move towards the end of 2023, we look back with gratitude at the efforts faculty and students have achieved and with anticipation towards 2024. But ITU must never take your dedication for granted so we will remain dedicated to fostering an environment where we all thrive and perform.

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