DESTINATION 2020
At the University of Ottawa, the world’s largest English-French bilingual university, students can study in English, in French, or in both languages. Located in the heart of a G8 capital, we have ready access to Canada’s great national institutions. Our breakthroughs in health, sciences, social sciences and the humanities attract global attention, reflecting the quality of our faculty and their drive to discover.
The University of Ottawa is one of Canada’s leading research universities. This enriches our teaching, creating a dynamic and exciting learning environment for our 40,000 students. Our scientists and scholars are awarded over $250 million a year in peer-reviewed research funding, placing the University of Ottawa among the Top 10 Canadian universities for research intensity. Worldwide, the Times Higher Education survey ranks us in the Top 200, one of only nine Canadian universities in that category. This brochure will tell you more about why we are so highly regarded today, and how much more we plan to achieve in the years ahead.

Our new Destination 20/20 strategic plan sets out four overarching goals that drive everything we do: to make our students’ learning experience even more memorable by adopting innovations both in and beyond the classroom; to move from a Top 10 Canadian research university into the Top 5 by building on our extraordinary strengths and developing new ones; to leverage our position as the world’s largest English-French bilingual university to become a world-recognized leader on language and the Francophonie; and to broaden our links across the globe by expanding student and faculty mobility while deepening our participation in international research networks.

Ambitious? Definitely. But with our strengths, and your support, it is all within reach.

Allan Rock
President and Vice-Chancellor
The richness of bilingualism

Canada accommodates diversity like no other country. We celebrate differences rather than seeking to dissolve them. We are not threatened but strengthened by our diversity.

This comfort with complexity can be traced to the early accommodation of both the French and English languages and cultures at the heart of a new nation. Canada’s commitment to bilingualism is fundamental to what we are as a country.

The University of Ottawa — Canada’s university — has nurtured that vision of bilingualism. We offer outstanding programs in French, in English and in both languages. We have the largest French immersion program of any university in Canada. Our campus lives, learns and plays in both languages. No other major university in Canada can say the same. This linguistic duality prepares our students uniquely to shape our country and to live out its values.

Ideas that move people, especially when expressed in more than one language, are truly powerful ideas. These are the ideas forged at the University of Ottawa.
Open to the world
Canada has always been highly respected on the global stage. We are a forward-thinking nation that constantly seeks the right balance between industry, environment and society. Our standards for access to education, our quality of life and the value we place on multiculturalism and human rights have made us a beacon for hope among the nations of the world.

The University of Ottawa — Canada’s university — embodies this national spirit. We believe in measured, intelligent choices, democratically made by people who are thoughtful and well informed. We debate issues with passion and openness while respecting each other’s views.

The University of Ottawa is the place where students discover how they can make their contribution to these Canadian ideals.
A culture of discovery

Researchers at the University of Ottawa can be found working on the frontiers of virtually every field of human endeavour, making us top of mind for industry and government when they seek special expertise and fresh insight. We enrich dozens of disciplines through our curiosity, asking the questions that push back boundaries and create new knowledge.

That curiosity keeps the University’s brilliant minds engaged, as they grow from students to scholars, to citizens and specialists. We believe that curiosity is at the heart of every academic pursuit. A desire to learn, the courage to question and a passion for discovery are present in everything we do.
Learning in a unique cultural environment

A good university must do certain things well: prepare young people to find their place in the world, enable faculty to share their knowledge and to pursue discovery, and support its employees as they provide exceptional quality services to its students. A great university takes these ideals to heart, and then asks: What more can we contribute to our community and our world?

That’s what we do at the University of Ottawa. Guided by our heritage, our humanity and our vitality, we give future citizens and leaders alike the values and tools they need to change the world.

In the past decade, our university has grown in many ways. Our student population has doubled and our graduate and undergraduate programs have increased to more than 450, in every field of human endeavour. With our bilingual and multicultural campus environment, we offer our students a unique educational and life experience.

Learning never stops and discovery does not end. Nor does our commitment — students, faculty, and employees — to making the University of Ottawa outstanding, as we discover the future.
Canada is a unique nation, born not of war or revolution but in a conscious act of self–invention. The quality of life in Canada is among the highest anywhere in the world. Yet Canada has always shown itself open to change, so long as that change respects the principles that motivated Canada’s creation.

Ours is the Canadian university that most directly reflects these essential national traits. Canada’s university embraces the country’s diversity, bilingualism and spirit of openness.

Like Canada itself, we seek to use our greatest attributes—excellence in learning and discovery and the commitment of our graduates—to make a better world.

Join us, as we discover the future.