



# TECH IN UPPSALA

# TECH IN UPPSALA – INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

## **Strategic Location:**

Uppsala is at the heart of Northern Europe, close to Stockholm, Arlanda Airport, Linköping and major AI research and innovation hubs. Part of Sweden's national research ecosystem with strong demand for advanced computing from AI, life science and digital services.

## **Stability and Security:**

Sweden offers political stability, strong regulations, and high cybersecurity standards. Digital development is a focus area in Uppsala identified by politicians in the city executive board together with focus on sustainability, security and jobs.

The city hosts more than 1100 active companies with over 3800 employees and a global turnover of approximately SEK 11 billion.

1100+

active companies

3800+

employees

10+

billion SEK turnover

# INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE 46 ELKS

“In Uppsala we can have an office right in the city center, just two minutes from the station, without the costs getting out of hand, says Johannes Ridderstedt, Founder and Chief Technology Officer”

Johannes and the team chose to found the company in Uppsala, where they have also remained. He believes it's easier to stand out as a tech company here than in Stockholm, and easier to recruit, since many skilled developers prefer to work locally.



# INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE VMAR

“We actively participate in networks and collaborations with other tech companies. Naturally to meet new customers and partners, but also to help Uppsala continue to grow as a tech city, says Fredrik Hemmingsson, CEO and Founder”

The local commitment also permeates how VMAR operates. The company collaborates with other actors in the region and clearly sees the advantages of local suppliers. It provides proximity, faster dialogue, and a better understanding of the customer’s everyday reality. VMAR has customers all over Sweden, and even beyond the country’s borders, but Uppsala is the base and the most important market.



# INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE VIDHANCE

“The university’s business incubator was an early co-owner, together with several local business angels, Niclas Elvgren, Sales and Marketing Manager.”

Within the growing ecosystem, Vidhance collaborates with several other Uppsala-based companies, including Dirac, Scaleout Systems, and Aurora Innovation. They operate in adjacent technology fields and share both challenges and opportunities.

Through joint AI initiatives and networks where smaller tech companies meet, collaboration is further strengthened – helping to build bridges between academia, industry, and the public sector.



# INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE XERTIFIED

“For us, Uppsala was a strategic starting point for the company. We see the city as an ecosystem where businesses can grow together. There is a genuine willingness to support one another here – between companies, and between the business community and academia, says Martin Eriksson, co-founder”

Xertified develops technology to protect connected devices — from industrial systems to medical technology and critical infrastructure.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Uppsala's tech sector is powered by world-class academic expertise in AI, image analysis, cybersecurity, and software engineering. The city hosts one of Northern Europe's largest computer science environments, with around 130 IT faculty, 130 PhD students, and 25 postdocs.

Uppsala offers ideal conditions for data-driven innovation and is a key hub in Sweden's national research ecosystem, fueled by rising demand for advanced computing across AI, life science, and digital services.

Through the national WASP initiative, Sweden and Uppsala University stand at the forefront of research in AI, autonomous systems, and advanced software engineering. Complementing this, UPPMAX — Uppsala's high-performance computing center — provides large-scale compute and storage infrastructure that supports researchers nationwide.

# Eight

programs on bachelor and masters level at Uppsala university

# 5500+

graduates annually

Uppsala ●

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THOMAS SCHÖN

“The use of AI and machine learning as a tool will lead to exciting renewal across many research areas, and this is a development we are now strongly committed to leading.”

Thomas B. Schön is the Beijer Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Uppsala University, developing and analyzing AI algorithms and models with a particular interest in their use in medicine. He is widely recognized as one of Sweden’s top AI researchers.

He has received multiple prestigious awards and is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA), the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and the Royal Society of Sciences at Uppsala.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IDA-MARIA SINTORN

“My research centers on automated microscopy and image analysis aimed at industrial and biomedical fields, especially in drug development and understanding diseases.”

Ida-Maria Sintorn is a Professor of Computerized Image Processing at Uppsala University, with expertise in microscopy image analysis, machine learning, and automated imaging. She also works to bridge academia and society by linking the university’s research with industry, public organizations, schools, and the broader community.

She has an extensive publication record, significant scientific influence, and is honoured as a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) for her contributions.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CAROLINA WÄHLBY

Carolina Wählby is a professor of quantitative microscopy at Uppsala University, renowned for her pioneering work in computational image analysis and AI-driven methods for life science and medical diagnostics.

Her research focuses on extracting quantitative information from microscopy data, applying traditional image analysis and deep learning to areas such as precision medicine, cancer diagnostics, and spatial transcriptomics.

She has contributed significantly to tools like TissUUmaps and in situ sequencing and has held key leadership roles within SciLifeLab and national data-driven life science initiatives. Her excellence has been recognized through prestigious awards, including the SBI2 President's Innovation Award and the Thuréus Prize. Carolina is also a fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), and Royal Society of Sciences at Uppsala.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CHRISTIAN ROHNER

“My research explores secure and energy efficient communication in wireless and IoT systems”

Christian Rohner is a Professor in Computer Systems at Uppsala University, Expert in wireless communication and security and network analysis.

He has a strong publication record across areas such as intrusion detection, wireless sensing, and network modeling, and his work is widely cited in the academic community.



# SOCIETY AND CULTURE





# SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN UPPSALA

## **International and Open Culture**

Uppsala combines a long tradition of scientific excellence with a dynamic society where innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship thrive.

## **Public – Private Collaboration**

Close cooperation between public and private sectors attracts international companies and investments. The city offers an attractive living environment for talent and businesses alike.

# SOCIETY AND CULTURE – UPPSALA INNOVATION CENTRE

Uppsala has a world-leading innovation support system where more than 15 actors collaborate. At the center is Uppsala Innovation Centre (UIC) – one of Europe's highest-ranked business incubators.

Each year, UIC receives around 300 business ideas, about 20% of which are tech companies.

Through its programs, Discover, Build, and Accelerate, entrepreneurs receive support in everything from business development to financing and internationalization.



# SOCIETY AND CULTURE – ICT UPPSALA

Research shows that industry clusters drive economic development by enabling companies and organizations to share knowledge, attract talent, and discover new collaborations.

Today, ICT Uppsala creates meeting places for the tech sector and works to strengthen connections between businesses, academia, and the public sector. By highlighting the opportunities within tech, the network helps Uppsala continue to grow as an innovative technology city.





# QUALITY OF LIFE

Uppsala offers a high quality of life, combining a safe, clean environment with strong infrastructure and rich cultural life. The city is known for its excellent healthcare, abundant green spaces, and a strong emphasis on work–life balance, all contributing to a comfortable lifestyle for families, students, and professionals.



According to international rankings, Uppsala scores very high on quality-of-life metrics, including low pollution, good air quality, efficient transportation, and a stable economy. Safety levels are moderate, but everyday life remains calm and welcoming.



Its vibrant academic environment, driven by Uppsala University, combined with strong cultural offerings, historical landmarks, and easy access to nature, make Uppsala both livable and inspiring.





# STRATEGIC LOCATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Located just 30 minutes from Arlanda Airport, the region offers excellent rail and air connectivity to Europe and global markets.

Its strategic location ensures efficient logistics and access to a skilled pool of labour.

The area is powered by green energy, supporting sustainable operations, and provides a stable environment for business growth.

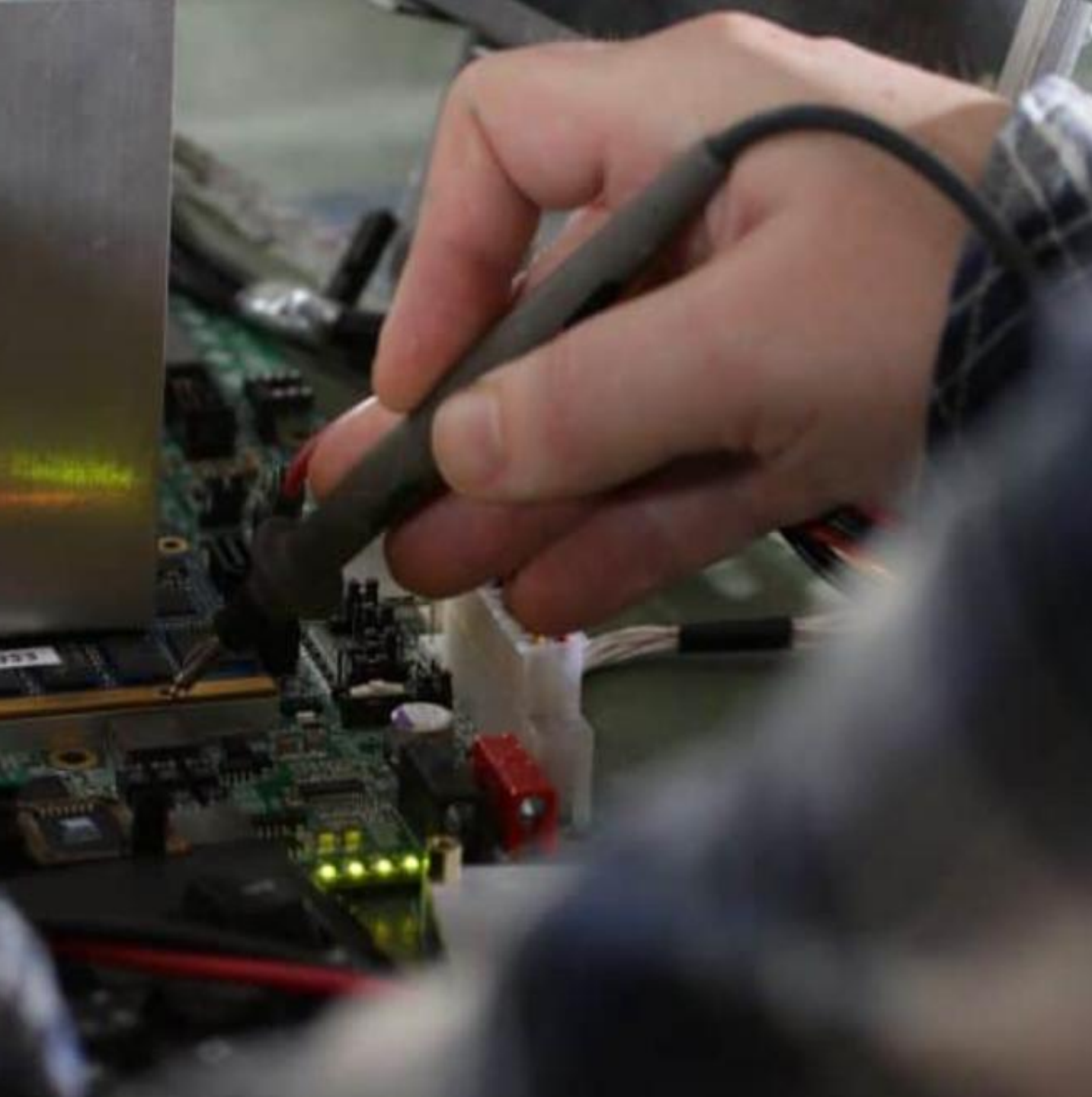


# INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES UPPSALA CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Uppsala's central business district hosts a strong tech and digital scene, with companies like IAR, Machine Games, Viedoc, 46 Elks, Xertified, Aurora Innovation, nWise, and Dirac.

The area offers immediate access to talent, networks, and the global market. Uppsala Central Station is just minutes away, with fast connections to Stockholm, Arlanda, and international destinations.

Surrounded by world-class academic institutions, it's one of the city's most active hubs for software developers, featuring regular meetups, tech events, and strong opportunities to connect. This makes the area a natural gathering point for talent, startups, and established companies seeking to grow within one of Sweden's strongest knowledge ecosystems.



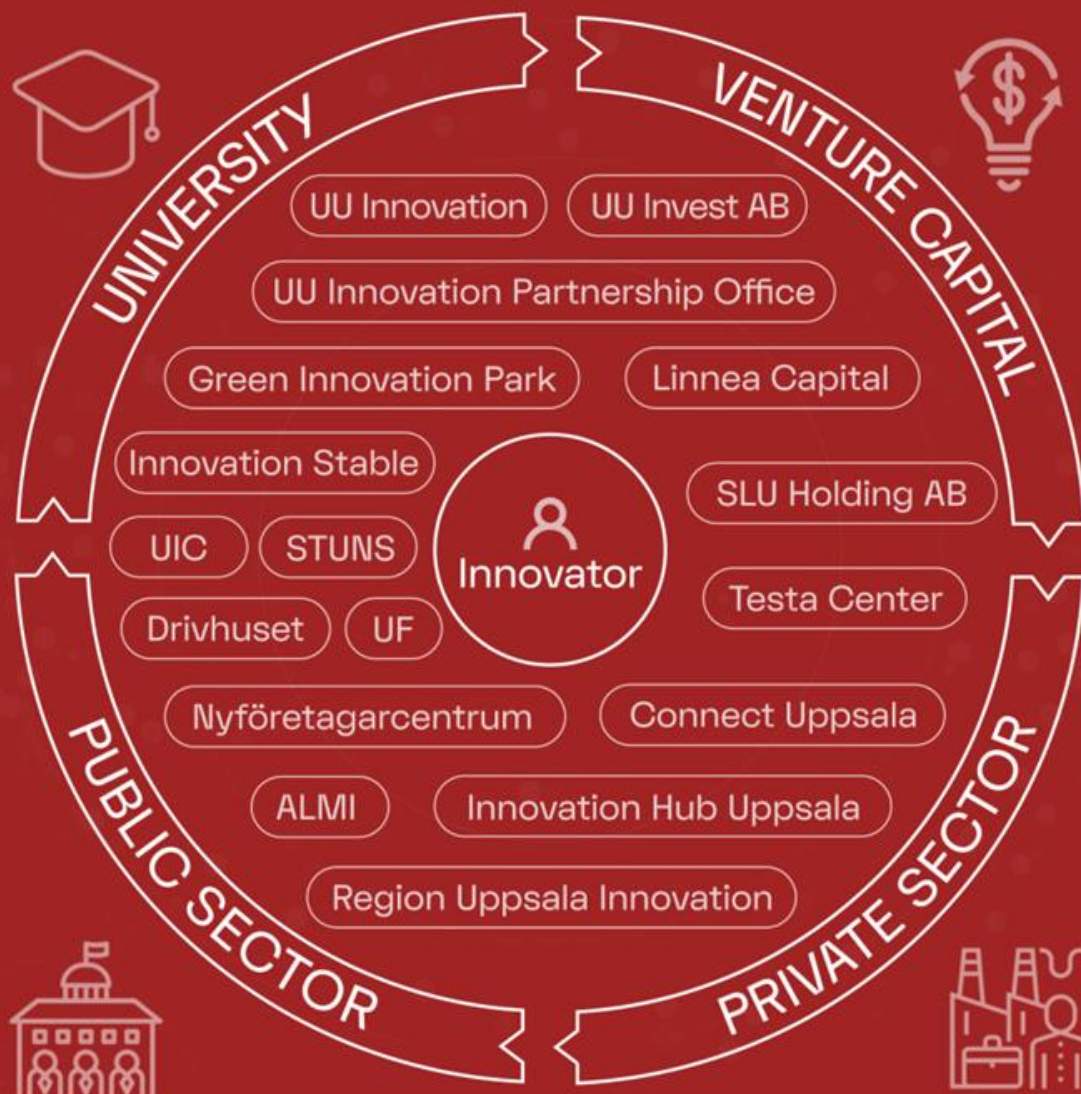
# NICHES

Uppsala has a dynamic digital development ecosystem with several strong tech niches. Key areas include software and systems development, IT consulting and integration, and a rapidly growing cybersecurity sector, all supported by local industry and research.

The city also hosts activity in game development, AI, machine learning, and data analytics, driven by Uppsala University's leading IT and computer science programs.

Additionally, Uppsala's tech companies work within cloud services, digital infrastructure, and UX/UI and digital product design, making the region a vibrant hub for innovation and digital transformation.

# THE INNOVATOR CENTERED ECO-SYSTEM



# PAY-IT- FORWARD CULTURE

# UPPSALA TECH HISTORY

Uppsala's technological development is deeply connected to Uppsala University, founded in 1477. As the university expanded from theology and law into natural sciences, mathematics, astronomy, and physics, it built the foundation for centuries of scientific and technological progress.

Modern IT in Uppsala emerged in the 1960s with the Department of Information Processing, which later developed into the Department of Information Technology—formally established in 1999 and today one of the university's largest departments. Engineering programs were marketed under Uppsala Tekniska Högskola (UTH) in the 1980s, strengthening the city's technical identity. In 2015, the university marked 50 years of IT research and education.

Uppsala has produced major scientific figures, including Anders Celsius, and remains internationally recognized for excellence in technology and science, with strong research environments and a vibrant IT community.

Uppsala has long been a birthplace of world-leading innovation and digital entrepreneurship, producing founders behind some of the world's most influential tech companies:

- Sebastian Siemiatkowski – CEO and co-founder of Klarna, one of Europe's largest fintech companies. He grew up and went to school in Uppsala before transforming global online payments.
- Niklas Zennström – Co-founder of Skype and KaZaA, and founder of Atomico in London. He studied Business and Engineering Physics at Uppsala University before becoming a global tech pioneer.
- David Axmark – Co-founder of MySQL, the world's most widely used open-source database. He built and led much of the company's early development from its base in Uppsala prior to its USD 1 billion acquisition by Sun Microsystems.

# TECH IN UPPSALA – SUMMARY

## INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

Uppsala is one of Europe's strongest mid-sized, research-driven tech hubs, home to more than 1,100 tech companies active in AI, digital health, image analysis, clean energy, and customer service solutions. The region combines scientific depth with industrial capability, enabling rapid movement from research to product development and global commercialization. With around 3,800 professionals currently working in IT and tech, Uppsala hosts a competitive mix of fast-growing firms and established players, creating a critical mass that allows the city to outperform its size in the European tech landscape.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Uppsala's tech strength is reinforced by direct access to world-leading academic expertise in AI, image analysis, cybersecurity, and software engineering. The city offers one of Northern Europe's largest computer science environments, with 130 IT faculty, 130 PhD students, and 25 postdocs. This strong academic base ensures a steady flow of industry-ready talent and supports close collaboration between research and industry, making advanced knowledge quickly transferable into commercial applications.

## INFRASTRUCTURE & SOCIETY

Uppsala provides a low-friction operating environment where companies benefit from cost-efficient scaling, modern office and R&D facilities, and short recruitment cycles. Salaries for highly skilled tech professionals are typically lower than in Stockholm, while operational costs remain competitive. The city also has a substantial untapped labor pool: over 4,000 highly qualified professionals commute daily to Stockholm, representing a major opportunity for local expansion and new establishments. Uppsala's compact urban structure fosters a highly connected innovation culture where tech companies, researchers, partners, and investors operate within walking distance. This culture of openness, combined with strong academic and industrial ties, has created a community of world-leading tech entrepreneurs, AI pioneers, and software innovators shaping the next generation of global digital industries.

Uppsala ●