



**AALBORG  
UNIVERSITY**

## PER MICHAEL JOHANSEN

Rector, Professor

DATE OF BIRTH 15 August 1960

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### PROFILE

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I am a senior academic executive with more than 30 years of leadership experience in higher education and research. Since 2014, I have served as rector at Aalborg University (Denmark), where I am responsible for the university's strategic direction, institutional governance, financial oversight, and long-term organisational goals.

Aalborg University (AAU) is a leading research-intensive university with over 19,000 students and a turnover in excess of 450 mio. Euro. Over the past five years, I have led a transformation of AAU into a mission-oriented university that tackles global challenges and translates them into sustainable solutions.

My leadership is driven by a commitment to excellence, collaboration and transformative impact in academia. A significant part of my work has focused on strengthening partnerships between universities and industry, and I strongly believe in enhancing research-driven innovation that supports societal and economic development. I see universities and university networks as key actors in developing higher education and research policies that reinforce Europe's role as a leading global contributor to technological advancements.

Throughout my career, I have held several leadership positions, including dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Southern Denmark and leading research professor at Risoe National Laboratories.

In addition to my executive roles, I bring extensive governance experience from serving on more than fifty national and international boards and councils. Highlights include appointment by the Danish Minister for Higher Education and Science to sit on the Danish National Executive Board for Business Development and Growth; and from the beginning of 2026 I will take up the position of President of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences.

If I am elected as Director to sit on the Board of CESAER, I will bring my experience, networks and commitment to the service of CESAER with the aim of strengthening the network and its member universities.

### EDUCATION

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2012	Institute for Educational Management – IEM, Harvard Graduate School of Education
2001	DSc Physics, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
1996	Management in Practice (Danish Management Forum)
1989	PhD in Optics, Risoe Nat. Labs./Aalborg University
1989	Pedagogical course for teaching staff, Technical University of Denmark
1986	MSc in Mechanical Engineering, Aalborg University

## EMPLOYMENT

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2014-	Rector, Professor, Aalborg University, Denmark
2007-2014	Dean, Professor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Southern Denmark
2005-2006	Managing Director, Svendborg International Maritime Academy (SIMAC), Denmark
2000-2004	Research Professor, Risoe Nat. Labs., Denmark
1996-2000	Head of research programme on Optical Materials, Risoe Nat. Labs., Optics and Fluid Dynamics Department, Denmark
1992-1996	Senior Scientist at Risoe Nat. Labs., Optics and Fluid Dynamics Department, Denmark
1991-1992	Assistant Professor in Physics, Aalborg University, Denmark

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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Author and co-author of more than 120 scientific publications and reports in nonlinear dynamics in photorefractive materials and active optical polymers.

## SIGNIFICANT BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

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2026	Incoming President of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences
2024-	Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee for the National Defence Technology Centre (NFC)
2024-	Member of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences Presidium
2019-	Member of the advisory board of the Royal Danish Defence College
2018-	Member of the Danish National Executive Board for Business Development and Growth
2016-	Chairman of the Council for Safety for Electrical and Gas Technology
2015-	Vice chairman of the Danish Rectors' Conference, Universities Denmark
2015-	Member of the executive committee, the Denmark-America Foundation
2014-	Board member of the Denmark-America Foundation
2014-	Board member of the Utzon Foundation, Denmark
2014-	Chairman of the Northern Jutland University Foundation
2014-	Member of the Danish Rectors' Conference, Universities Denmark
2011-	Member of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences
2021-2024	Vice chairman of the board of Force Technology
2018-2021	Vice chairman of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU)
2018-2019	Chairman of the Committee on Better Accreditation in Danish Research
2017-2018	Member of the committee for better university degree programmes in Denmark
2017-2018	Member of the simplification committee for the promotion of trade and industry in Denmark
2015-2024	Board member of Force Technology
2015-2017	Chairman of the Board of the Nordic University Association
2014-2018	Member of Growth Forum North Jutland, Denmark
2014-2017	Member of the Aalborg Trade Council, Denmark
2012-2014	Chairman of the board, Southern Denmark Technological Innovation Ltd (SDTI)

2011-2014	Board member of the Innovation Network Lean Energy, Denmark
2010-2014	Danish member of the NORDTEK Board (Nordic network organisation)
2010-2014	Board member the Danish Council for Strategic Research
2008-2010	Board member of the Danish Cooling Cluster Alsion (KVCA)
2007-2009	Member of the Proof-of-concept Board in Western Denmark
2007-2016	Board member of Europe's Maritime Development Centre (EMUC)
2001-2004	Member of the management committee of COST Action P8 on Materials and Systems for Optical Data Storage and Processing
1998-2002	Member of the management committee of COST Action P2 on Application of Nonlinear Optical Phenomena
1996-2000	Board member of the European Optical Society (EOS)
1995-1997	Chairman of the Danish Optical Society (DOPS)
1993-1998	Representative of the Danish Optical Society in the European Optical Society Advisory Committee

## **DISTINCTIONS**

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2020	Knight 1 <sup>st</sup> Class of the Order of Dannebrog
2011	Knight of Dannebrog
2011	Member, Danish Academy of Technical Sciences (ATV)
2001	Member, Danish Academy of Natural Sciences (DNA)
1994	Member, Optical Society of America