Samara National Research University (Samara University) is one of the leading universities in Russia, the relevant status of which is recorded in the regulatory documents of the Government of the Russian Federation and recognized by the academic community. Samara University was founded in 1942. In 2015, it amalgamated collectives from the aerospace (SSAU) and classical (SamSU) universities, becoming the rightful heir to their illustrious achievements and traditions.
896 higher education institutions of various types were registered in Russia in 2016. 21 Russian universities emerged from the competitive selection for the right to take part in “Project 5-100”, including:
5 federal universities (out of 10),
12 national research universities (out of 29).

Since 2009, Samara University has been listed among Russia’s 29 national research universities.

As of 2013, it has been included in the program for improving the competitiveness of Russian universities among the world’s top science-and-education centers (Project 5-100).
The science-and-education activity of Samara University encompasses aerospace technologies, engine building, and modern methods of information processing, as well as the fundamental technical and natural sciences and the humanities.

Today, the academic structure of Samara University consists of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutes</th>
<th>Faculties</th>
<th>Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of students is 16,130, including 573 postgraduate students. Moreover, 5,140 trainees receive advanced training and professional development annually within the framework of continuing professional education programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
<th>Continuing Professional Education Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16,130</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>5,140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The study process is led by 1,455 instructors (including 169 professors and 494 associate professors, 266 instructors with doctoral degree and 817 instructors with candidate degree).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Professors</th>
<th>Associate Professors</th>
<th>Doctoral Degree</th>
<th>Candidate Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

320 educational programs are available for the students, including 135 bachelor’s degree programs, 19 specialist programs, 150 master’s degree programs and 16 programs of secondary vocational education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Programs</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree Programs</th>
<th>Specialist’s Degree Programs</th>
<th>Master’s Degree Programs</th>
<th>Programs of Secondary Vocational Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scientific research structure of Samara University consists of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Research Institutes</th>
<th>Scientific Research Laboratories and Groups</th>
<th>Scientific Research Centers and Research-and-Development Centers</th>
<th>Collective Use Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Samara University is one of the most dynamically developing Russian institutions of higher education. In recent years, the university has been systematically improving its indicators in the Russian and international rankings.

QS Top Universities BRICS

2014
For the first time it is included in the ranking of higher educational institutions of the BRICS countries. The university joins the group of universities in positions 151–200.

2015
In 2015 and 2016, the university consolidated this result.

QS University Rankings: Emerging Europe and Central Asia (QS EECA)

2015
Samara University joins the top-150 ranking of the best universities in Emerging Europe and Central Asia.

THE World University Rankings

2016
Samara University is included for the first time ever in the ranking of the world’s best universities, as surveyed by the British journal Times Higher Education. The university joins the group of universities in positions 801–980.

QS World University Rankings

2017
Samara University is included for the first time ever in the global ranking of QS World University Rankings. The university joins the group of universities in positions 800–1000.

In spring of the same year, the university was included in the international QS subject ranking in Physics & Astronomy (group 451–500).
In the post-war years, KuAI was the scene of advanced research-and-development work on the production of breakthrough prototypes of aviation equipment, including the first jet-fighters and bombers, as well as their propulsion systems.

1945

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1957

In the post-war years, Samara emerged as the cradle of space exploration: it is here the legendary Vostok rocket was manufactured, which was used for launching of the world’s first-ever manned spaceflight. Since 1957, KuAI has been training specialists for the development of space-rocket equipment. The Institute’s scientists, specialists and graduates have taken part in the design and production development of the country’s first domestically-produced R-7 family of rockets, the Vostok, Molniya and Soyuz carrier rockets, a rocket-and-space complex for manned flights to the Moon and the Energiya-Buran system, developed programs for the MIR orbital complex, and participated in many other projects, including international endeavors.

1942

The Aviation institute, which in 2015 became the heart of today’s Samara University, opened in Samara (then known as Kuibyshev) in October 1942. By that time, the city had emerged as the evacuation center for roughly 30 aviation-industry enterprises and organizations fleeing wartime hostilities. It was the scene of the rollout for mass production of the ground-attack IL-2 aircraft, which went on to become the single most-produced warplane in the history of military aviation. Kuibyshev-based enterprises made nearly three-quarters of the more than 36,000 IL-2 that our country produced. The Kuibyshev Aviation Institute (KuAI) became the foundry for the engineering corps for these enterprises.

1942

For many years, Samara University has been inextricably linked to the industrial and economic development of the region, which is one of the leading domestic and global centers of aerospace technologies.

THE UNIVERSITY AND SAMARA REGION

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In the late 1950s, KuAI initiated the creation of industry-specific R&D laboratories, which lent powerful impetus to the advancement of university-based scientific pursuits. The institute’s work involved the recruitment of prominent scientists and industrial workers. Among them — the principal designer of aviation and rocket engines Nikolai Kuznetsov, as well as a leading Soviet and Russian designer of space-rocket equipment, the chief engineer of the legendary R-7 rocket, Dmitri Kozlov.

On February 22, within the framework of Resolution No. 136 of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR “On Perpetuating the Memory of Academician S. P. Korolev”, KuAI was given the name of S. P. Korolev, and the following year, by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Institute was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

The first satellites created in KuAI were put into orbit. Flying vehicles of spherical form named “Peon” served to study the density of the upper layers of the atmosphere. In total, in 1989–1992 six satellites of this series were launched.

Samara State Aerospace University became the winner of an open competition, as a result of which the first 14 universities received the status of a national research university. 110 higher educational establishments took part in the first competition. One year later another 15 universities were awarded the status of a research university.

Samara State Aerospace University was among the 15 first winners of the “5-100” Project competition, Russian initiative of academic excellence aimed at increasing the competitiveness of leading Russian universities among the world’s leading research and educational centers. Based on the results of two competitions, 21 leading Russian universities participate in the Project.

On April 19, Soyuz-2.1a launch vehicle, launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, put Aist small spacecraft into orbit as one of the cargoes.

On December 28, new Soyuz-2.1v light-weight rocket delivered Volga launch unit to the orbit with the second Aist small spacecraft.

Today, Samara is the burgeoning home to all manner of cutting-edge space equipment. And not just for Russia, but also for Western European countries and the USA. This equipment includes rocket propulsion systems, Earth-orbiting satellites and, of course, the most reliable family of booster rockets in the history of space exploration — the Soyuz. In the second decade of the twenty-first century, the Soyuz has emerged as the only way to send relief crews to the International Space Station.
The 50–60s of the 20th century were marked by the grandiose achievements of the Russian science. The discoveries of Soviet scientists made it possible to create advanced technologies, use new sources of energy, and develop high-tech industries. These processes were accompanied by active social and cultural transformations. There was an increasing need in our country in specialists with the university background both in the scientific, technological, social and cultural areas.

In the mid-1960s, a group of professors from Samara universities and employees of scientific and research institutions developed proposals on the basis of which Decree of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of December 14, 1966 was passed. "On the Foundation of Kuibyshev State University".

September 1969 saw the opening of Samara (then Kuibyshev) State University (SamGU). It was to provide training for scientific manpower in the natural and social sciences, as well as the humanities.

The first 200 students received education at three faculties: Faculty of Mathematics, Faculty of Physics and Faculty of Humanities. There were 6 academic departments and 17 lecturers. The formation of academic schools at SamGU unfolded with support from the Moscow, St. Petersburg and Saratov State Universities.
Faculty of Chemistry and Biology was founded. In 1989 Faculty of Chemistry and Biology was divided into standalone Faculty of Chemistry and Faculty of Biology.

In 1989, the Kuibyshev branch of the All-Union Law Correspondence Institute joined the Faculty of Law.

The Faculty of Psychology started its operations. The Applied Sociology Department was open at the Faculty of History, which was transformed into a faculty in 1993.

Faculty of Economics and Management was open.

SamGU celebrated its 40th anniversary. By that time, 38,113 specialists with a degree had graduated from the University, its scientific and educational structure consisted of 10 faculties and 60 academic departments.

In 1980, the Kuibyshev branch of the All-Union Law Correspondence Institute joined the Faculty of Law.

The order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia was issued, on the basis of which SSAU and SamGU were united.

On April 6 the united institute got its present name, Samara National Research University” (abbreviated name — “Samara University”).

On April 28, as part of the first launch from the new Russian cosmodrome, Vostochny, Aist-2D small spacecraft was put into orbit. It was created by the scientists of Samara University and engineers from the Progress space center. SamSat-218, a nanosatellite developed by Samara students, was put into orbit together with Aist-2D.

The united University began preparation of engineering and scientific personnel for the new Russian Vostochny cosmodrome and Tsiolkovsky science city.
Today’s Samara is a welcoming and bustling megapolis, one of Russia’s leading scientific, industrial, educational and cultural centers.

In 2018, Samara will be one of the host cities for the FIFA World Cup. A brand-new stadium is being built expressly for this purpose. Its design reflects the cosmic ambitions of the city and its inhabitants. In the environs surrounding the stadium, the new campus of Samara University will be built – the modern technopolis Gagarin Center. It will boast all of the conditions required for the development of science-intensive technologies and various academic research schools.
Kurumoch International Airport is one of the largest in the country. Its annual passenger traffic stands at roughly 2.2 million people. Flights are operated by 44 Russian and foreign airlines.

Samara Railway Station is the tallest railway-station complex in Europe. Its height, including spire, soars to a total of 101 meters.

The city’s surviving architectural heritage represents one of the most rich and vibrant ensembles in all of modern Russia. The dominant architectural styles are the Art Nouveau and Eclecticism of the late 19th – early 20th centuries, as well as the Post-Modernism of the 20th century.

Samara boasts roughly three dozen different museums: from the legendary Stalin’s Bunker and Samara Space Museum to smaller private thematic collections.

Samara boasts a high number of original landmarks, from small sculptural forms to larger monuments and memorials, as well as several monuments to technical achievement.

Samara regularly hosts Russian and international festivals, sports competitions and other events. In early July, the outskirts of the regional capital — Mastryukovskiy Lakes — are the annual gathering spot for the fans of guitar poetry. The song festival bears the name of Valeriy Grushin — a Samara University student who died in 1967 saving a group of drowning children.

The Samara shoreline is by many accounts the best on the Volga. The city features 10 parks and gardens, over 20 parkettes and avenues, and a total of 17 squares, including one of the largest in Europe — Kuibyshev Square.

Samara’s theater life is vibrant and full. The city has several dramatic repertory theaters, an opera theater and a ballet theater. It is a regular stop on tours by leading Russian and foreign theaters.

Samara is a multidenominational city of many faiths. It is home to Russian Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican churches, the Armenian Apostolic Church, mosques, a synagogue and other religious institutions and centers.
Institutes and Faculties

Institute of Aeronautical Engineering
It was established in 2015 and united profile departments, scientific and educational schools of two faculties — Aircraft Engineering (founded in 1942) and Faculty of Air Transport Engineers (founded in 1958).

Institute of Space Rocket Engineering
As a standalone structural unit, was founded in 2015. Until then, the institute had been a part of the Faculty of Aircraft Engineering, which was founded together with the University in 1942. In 2016, academic departments of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology became part of the Institute.

Institute of Engine and Power Plant Engineering
Was founded in 2014 on the basis of the Faculty of Aircraft Engines. This is one of the oldest educational units of Samara University, which emerged simultaneously with the University in 1942. Until 1961 it was called the Faculty of Aviation Engines.

Institute of IT, Mathematics and Electronics
It was founded in 2016 and united three faculties: Faculty of Electronics and Instrumentation (founded in 1962), Faculty of Mathematics (founded in 1969), Faculty of IT (founded in 1975).
Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Institute includes the Faculty of Philology and Journalism, the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Psychology and the Faculty of Sociology, six inter-faculty academic departments and seven laboratories.

Institute of Natural Sciences

It was founded in 2016 and united three faculties: Faculty of Physics (founded in 1969), Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Chemistry (founded in 1970).

Institute of Economics and Management

It was founded in 2016 on the basis of two faculties with the same name, Faculty of Economics and Management, of SamSU and SSAU. Due to the mutual influence of the scientific schools and educational and methodological traditions, merge of two faculties made it possible to strengthen the positions of Samara University in training specialists in economic areas.

Faculty of Law

Preparation of specialists started in 1970. Initially, the faculty was part of the Faculty of Humanities, and in 1976 became an independent structural unit. First lawyers graduated the Faculty in 1975.
Student participation in research projects

Study at Samara University proceeds according to the principle “education through research.”

Every year, more than 3,000 students take part in the scientific-research, experimental-design and technological-engineering projects unfolding at Samara University.

Solid foundation for a successful career

Since its founding, Samara National Research University has trained over 65,000 employees for the Russian aerospace industry. Today, specialists with degrees from Samara University are working at virtually all of the leading aviation and space-rocket centers in Russia and around the world.

Our graduates are among the executive leadership at Irkut Corporation, Sukhoi Company, Progress State Research and Production Space Center, NPO Energomash, Gazprom Corporation, Sberbank Group, and others.

Demand for our graduates on the global market

According to the portal linkedin.com, graduates of Samara University are pursuing successful careers not only in Russia, but abroad as well: in the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Australia, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Belgium and other countries of the far abroad.

These are the foreign offices and divisions of such companies as Airbus, Rolls-Royce PLC, Bombardier Aerospace, Google, Microsoft, Intel, Schlumberger, Biosense Webster, EPAM System, Honeywell, Alcatel-Lucent, Morgan Stanley, HSBC, and others.
The grounds of the university campus are home to a functioning production-and-testing complex for the assembly and testing of small spacecraft (SSC) for remote sensing and observation, created by Progress Space-Rocket Centre. The campus already boasts a fully-operational center for the development and testing of nano-satellite systems. It encompasses laboratories that make it possible to solve the vast array of tasks involved in the development and testing of nano-satellite systems according to the CubeSat 1U-3U standard and their subsystems.

Thanks to our close integration with the leading industrial and research centers, our students and graduates can bring their ideas and advanced concepts to life — design a spacecraft, assemble it, launch it into space, and then control it in orbit. They create hardware for research satellites and take part in space experiments.

In cooperation with its strategic partner — Progress Space-Rocket Centre — Samara University is one of the few research-and-education centers in the world to boast its own orbital family of small spacecraft intended for R&D purposes.

Functioning in orbit today are two “Aist” first-generation satellites and the “Aist-2” SSC for remote Earth observation. All of these spacecraft were created by specialists at Progress Space-Rocket Centre and scientists at Samara University with the active participation of students.

Existing group of orbital satellites

On-site engineering-and-production centers

Partnership with high-tech companies
In June 2016, the leading research-and-education teams at Samara University were used as the basis for the formation of new interdisciplinary divisions — strategic academic units (StrAU):

- “Aerospace Engineering and Technology” (StrAU-1).
- “Gas-Turbine Engine Technology” (StrAU-2).
- “Nanophotonics, Emerging Technologies for Remote Earth Observation and Smart Geo-Information Systems” (StrAU-3).

These divisions have enough potential and resources to become world-class research-and-education centers and yield the kind of breakthrough results that support the university’s international competitiveness.
Aside from its aerospace stream, Samara University also pursues scientific research and conducts the training of specialists in the field of cutting-edge biotechnologies, the creation of micro- and nano-devices for the next-generation of electronic and optoelectronic information systems, and the design of materials with pre-set properties.

Coursework at the university also entails the study of fundamental social processes, exposure to the theory and practice of the preservation of cultural and linguistic heritage, and training for teaching and research pursuits.
Advanced campus

Samara University campus is favorably situated in the geographical center of Samara city. Student quarter comprises over thirty training and laboratory buildings, as well as a complex of student hostels for 4,200 people. University students and employees have over ten sport complexes and gyms available (including two swimming pools), as well as open playgrounds, own yacht club and other recreational, social and leisure infrastructure.

Scientific and educational infrastructure

Samara University has over one hundred of operational scientific and research centers, laboratories, as well as shared knowledge centers equipped with the state-of-the-art machinery. The University has two supercomputer centers and one Big Data processing laboratory.

Samara University library is one of the largest in the region in respect of the book stock: it has over 2.3 mln copies of different editions. Apart from the large book stock, the readers have free access to scientific works indexed by the largest international databases Web of Science and Scopus, as well as magazines of the Elsevier, OSA, EBSCO publishing houses, and different electronic library systems.

The access may be granted not only from the desktop computer, but from the portable devices as well via unified Wi-Fi network operating throughout the campus.
Museums and points of interest

The University Museum of Aviation and Cosmonautics has expositions of genuine items, equipment and instruments of aviation and space technology, personal belongings and documents of S.P. Korolev, other outstanding scientists and cosmonauts.

Educational scientific and technical Aviation Engines History Centre named after N. Kuznetsov (AEHC) has one of the world’s largest collection of aviation and rocket engines. They represent the inventions of all the Russian and some of the foreign design bureaus.

Samara University Botanical Garden situated within the campus is a state-recognized natural sanctuary comprising over 3.5 thousand species of higher plants.

Since 1953, Samara University has had its own operational training aerodrome. Currently there are 25 different models of aircrafts and helicopters stationed there. The crown jewel of the training airport fleet is the Soviet supersonic passenger aircraft Tu-144. There are only 8 units of this aircraft model left in the world (of 17 ever built).
Students from 62 different countries study at Samara University.

Partnership with leading universities

Main areas of the university’s cooperation with 76 of the world’s leading universities:

- joint research;
- academic mobility programs;
- inviting foreign researchers to teach at Samara University;
- joint educational programs and double degree programs.

The university cooperates with research-and-education structures in a wide array of countries around the world. Among them:

- the USA
- Great Britain
- Germany
- France
- Brazil
- India
- China
- Finland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Hungary
- Portugal
- Poland
- Latvia
- Kazakhstan
- Moldova
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Malaysia
- and others
Joint laboratories

Samara University has created joint laboratories with the following foreign universities:

- University of Stuttgart (Germany)
- Freiberg University of Mining and Technology (Germany)
- Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany)
- Emory University (USA)
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Northwestern Polytechnical University (China)
- Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

Work at international organizations

Samara University participates in the work of a number of major international organizations. These include, among others, the International Astronautical Federation and the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).
Participation in international student forums

Since 2011, Samara University has been partnering with two French organizations — the Institute for Aeronautics and Space Exploration (ISAE) and the National Center for Space Research (CNES). At issue here, among other things, is the participation by the student design office at Samara University in the annual CNES contest and C’S Space festival — one of whose main events is a competition involving the launch of experimental student rockets.

Participation in international research programs

Samara University is pursuing a project involving creation of the SamSat-QB50 nano-satellite for the European QB50 research mission, which focuses on studying the space-time model of the Earth’s thermosphere.

The QB50 project is being implemented under the auspices of the Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics (Belgium) and encompasses 37 different universities from more than 20 world countries.

The Samara University satellite was the sole Russian participant in this mission and was included in a grouping consisting of 50 nano-satellites.