



Bern University  
of Applied Sciences



## Bachelor in Agriculture – International Agriculture

► School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL

# A far-sighted degree programme

Growing cities, changing eating habits, climate change, poverty: agriculture in developing and emerging countries is facing severe constraints. The private sector, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations are all seeking ways to feed the world's population in the future. Hence the need for experts who can both comprehensively analyse agricultural production systems and value chains and develop sustainable and innovative solutions.

## A unique degree programme

The Agriculture degree programme majoring in International Agriculture is unique in Switzerland. It is particularly attractive because you undertake a six-month internship in Africa, Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe during your studies. Through this internship, you experience concrete problems at first hand. You also develop your intercultural competence and gain valuable credentials for your professional career.

Furthermore, the degree programme is varied and interdisciplinary: you will not only learn about crop production and livestock husbandry but also business economics, project management and ecological concerns. Development policy and intercultural issues also form part of the degree programme.

You will learn to research a topic independently and work on real assignments, as in professional life. Finally, the degree programme offers extensive opportunities to build a national and international network.

The campus is situated near the Swiss capital, Bern, and is well equipped with sports and leisure facilities (beach volleyball court, swimming pool, barbecue areas, etc.).



**Leila Tavassoli, Nestlé, rural development framework coordinator**

«During my studies at HAFL, I learnt to approach tasks systematically. This is really important in my daily work. My experience from the internship abroad comes in useful when I'm setting up and coordinating rural development projects with coffee producers».

# International experience sought

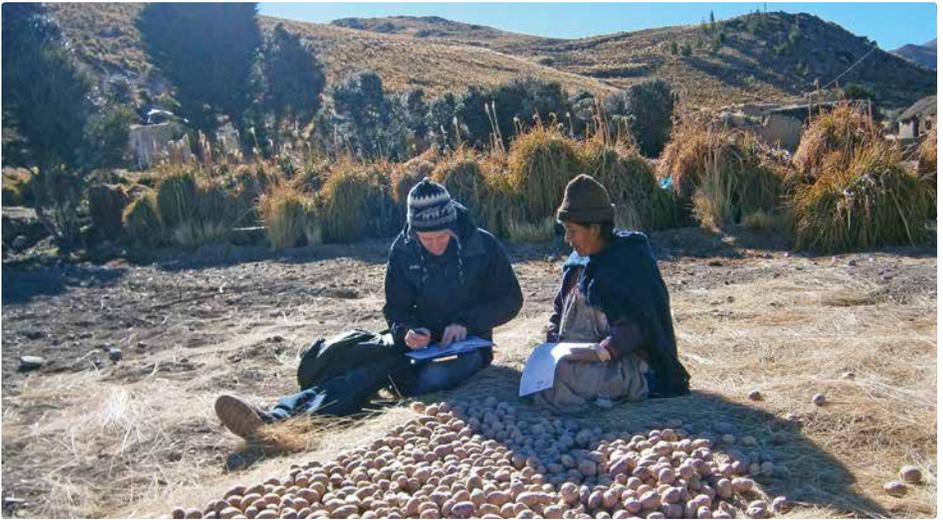
Companies and organisations are increasingly asking for international experience, creativity, and the ability to find appropriate solutions. As an agricultural scientist specialising in international agriculture, you will find exciting jobs in various areas – abroad and in Switzerland:

- businesses with an international portfolio
- applied agricultural research and extension
- development projects and organisations
- farm management

The Agriculture degree programme majoring in International Agriculture also prepares you optimally for a master's degree, which would open additional opportunities for you in the international field.



Learning how to develop appropriate solutions: a student in Kyrgyzstan.



A highlight of the degree programme: the six-month internship abroad, eg in Bolivia

### The structure of your degree programme

During the foundation year, you acquire basic agricultural knowledge and general skills required for your professional future. In the second year, you begin with the International Agriculture modules, in which you deal with the agriculture and use of natural resources in developing and emerging countries. The most important components of the major are:

- crop production in the tropics and sub-tropics
- livestock systems in developing and emerging countries
- crop-livestock interactions
- natural resources and climate change
- economics in the rural sector; value chains
- macro-economic considerations and aspects of developmental policy
- innovative, participative research and extension
- project management and intercultural communication.

The teaching methods are designed to foster your ability to analyse complex problems quickly, develop appropriate solutions and hold your own in an English-speaking international context.

From April to October of the third year you undertake an internship in Africa, Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe – a highlight of your studies. BFH-HAFL fully prepares you for and supervises you during your stay abroad. You work in a locally active partner organisation and write your bachelor thesis on a topic related to your internship.

# Overview

## Target audience and admission

- Holders of the Federal VET Diploma as a farmer plus the vocational baccalaureate
- Holders of the baccalaureate plus a one-year pre-study internship in agriculture
- Others: please consult the information on the website

The length of the pre-study internship may be reduced for those potential students who hold the vocational baccalaureate and have done vocational education and training in a partially related occupation or have work experience in agriculture.

## Pre-study internship

One year on a Swiss farm. The pre-study internship normally starts at the beginning of August and is supervised by BFH-HAFL.

## Degree

On completion of the degree programme and with the acquisition of 180 ECTS credits, you receive the Bern University of Applied Sciences degree 'Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Majoring in International Agriculture'.

## Length

3 years + 3 months, full-time study; part-time study possible on request.

## Teaching languages

Foundation year: German, French  
Major in International Agriculture:  
English

## Tuition fees

CHF 750 per semester plus fees for examinations and teaching material.

## Registration and deadline for registration

The degree programme begins each September. Online registration is via [www.hafl.bfh.ch](http://www.hafl.bfh.ch), usually until the end of the preceding April.

For further information, go to [www.hafl.bfh.ch](http://www.hafl.bfh.ch)



**Vincent Schmitt, Caritas Switzerland, representative for food security in Haiti**

«The degree programme in International Agriculture is really varied. Besides Swiss agriculture, it broadens horizons with agricultural practices worldwide. Also, the teaching methods help you adapt quickly to new challenges, be it in professional or private life».

# Further information

## Bern University of Applied Sciences

School of Agricultural, Forest

and Food Sciences HAFL

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[www.hafl.bfh.ch](http://www.hafl.bfh.ch)

## Contact

Individualised information and  
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Working in a locally active partner organisation: a student  
in Mozambique