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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Bern University of Applied Sciences**

### **New academic year: student numbers up at BFH**

**Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH) is continuing to grow. Around 2,500 new bachelor's and master's students are set to begin their studies at BFH next week. That figure is around 4 percent higher than last year. It is planned that the university will return to classroom teaching in the autumn semester 2021/22.**

On Monday, 20 September 2021, around 2,500 new bachelor's and master's students will begin their studies at Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH). That figure is around 4 percent higher than a year ago. The Business and Health Professions departments will welcome the highest numbers of new students. Both the bachelor's and master's degree programmes have met with a great deal of interest from students, indicating how important a scientifically rigorous and practice-based education is in today's uncertain times.

BFH currently has over 7,700 bachelor's and master's students – 3 percent more than at the same point last year. 'We are delighted by the latest figures, which confirm that there is a tremendous amount of interest in BFH's degree programmes,' says Sebastian Wörwag, President of BFH.

#### **BFH diagonal: new optional modules for bachelor's students**

There is also demand for the new 'BFH diagonal' optional modules. Here, students from different degree programmes attend joint classes to develop their interprofessional skills. There is a choice of over 100 modules, offering students the opportunity to expand their individual academic profile and gain a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary subjects such as sustainability, diversity or entrepreneurship. BFH's aim in offering these options is to encourage interdisciplinary skills such as critical thinking, creativity and cooperation in order to provide students with the best preparation for a complex and dynamic working environment.

#### **Coronavirus: classroom teaching with a COVID certificate**

The university plans to conduct more classroom teaching in the autumn semester 2021/2022. To facilitate this, from Monday, 20 September 2021, a COVID certificate will be required for participation in bachelor's and master's programmes on site (proof of vaccination, recovery or testing). Students who are not vaccinated can either get tested in advance at BFH free of charge, or work through the teaching material themselves digitally. In this way, BFH is taking into account its students' individual situations as well as their freedom of choice.

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