



Bern University
of Applied Sciences



Studying in the heart of Switzerland

Bern, a first class study destination, offers an exciting student life with excellent career opportunities.

Studying in Switzerland

There is more to Switzerland than mountains and chocolate. Apart from splendid tourist attractions, visitors can discover an excellent place to live, work and study. Located in the heart of Europe, the country offers an exciting culture mix, breathtaking landscapes and excellent career opportunities.

Switzerland also stands for a high quality of life and a safe living environment. Swiss hospitality and discretion make a stay in this small country most enjoyable.

The Bern University of Applied Sciences is situated in the canton of Bern which hosts the Swiss capital of the same name. The Bern University of Applied Sciences comprises eight departments in various locations in Bern, Biel/Bienne, Burgdorf, Magglingen/Macolin and Zollikofen.

Bern University of Applied Sciences in an International Perspective

The Bern University of Applied Sciences is one of the seven Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences. About 6900 students are enrolled in 30 bachelor degree programmes, 24 master degree programmes and a variety of executive master, diploma and certificate of advanced studies programmes as well as seminars. The Bern University of Applied Sciences comprises eight departments. Most of the programmes are taught in German, while others are conducted both in French and German. An increasing number of courses or modules within these programmes are held in English, and courses are internationally accredited.

Many tasks call for interdisciplinary solutions today. In order to better address these requirements in the future, BFH has grouped its areas of expertise into BFH Centres based on its established research groups and institutes. These centres develop responses to current and future social and technological issues. They are unique in Switzerland either in their composition or in their holistic approach. The BFH distinguishes itself by concentrating on the following BFH Centres: Wood – Resource and Material, Technologies in Sports and Medicine, Arts in Context, Digital Society, Energy Storage.

The Bern University of Applied Sciences fosters an active internationalisation policy and cooperates with a number of partner institutions within and beyond Europe, in terms of teaching exchanges, research and service delivery.

The Swiss-European Mobility Programme allows the Bern University of Applied Sciences to participate in exchange programmes on European level.

Many departments promote opportunities for their students to undertake internships or do part of their studies in other countries.

The Eight Departments

Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

The Department of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering fosters a strong national and international network and is one of the foremost educational and research establishments in the building and construction industry in Switzerland. It maintains international cooperation and projects mainly in Europe, but also all over the world. The department attaches particular importance to cooperation with emerging and developing countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Architecture; Civil Engineering; Wood Engineering

Master Programmes

Architecture (in cooperation with the UAS Western Switzerland, Fribourg and Geneva); Engineering (in cooperation with the Department Engineering and Information Technology and the seven Swiss UASs); Wood Technology (in cooperation with the Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

Fields of research

Sustainable built environment: Geotechnics, infrastructures, water, mobility and urban planning. Sustainable construction: Design, planning, production and remodeling methods for buildings. Sustainable living: Multi-functional wood and bio-based composite materials and products for daily life. Digital construction: Processes and collaboration models for the digital construction and wood economy. Capacity development in the fields of wood and construction in emerging and developing countries.

Bern University of the Arts

The Bern University of the Arts is an international, multilingual department, with students and lecturers from more than 40 different countries. It has partnerships with a series of universities abroad, takes its productions abroad and cooperates with international partners in a large number of projects.

Bachelor Programmes

Art Education; Conservation; Fine Arts; Literary Writing; Multimedia Production; Music (Classical and Jazz); Sound Arts; Music and Movement (Rhythmics); Theatre; Visual Communication

Master Programmes

Art Education; Conservation-Restoration; Contemporary Arts Practice; Design; Music Composition; Music Pedagogy (Classical, Jazz, Music and Movement, Major Music SII); Music Performance (Classical and Jazz); Specialized Music Performance (Classical and Opera); Theatre

Fields of research

Interpretation; materiality in Art and Culture; design; intermediality

Business

The Department of Business is a largely autonomous operational business unit that offers the entire package – courses, further education, applied research and development as well as services. The Department of Business provides an enriching environment for the ca. 1000 students of which international students make up 10 percent.

Bachelor Programmes

Business Administration; Business Administration – International Programme; Business Information Technology

Master Programmes

Business Administration; Business Information Technology (in cooperation with St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, ZHAW School of Management and Law in Winterthur); Digital Business Administration (as of autumn 2020)

Fields of research

Digital Enabling; Innovation & Strategic Entrepreneurship; Methods & basics; New Work; Public Sector Transformation; Sustainable Business

Engineering and Information Technology

The Department of Engineering and Information Technology pursues an active international strategy. International partners are located all over the world: mainly in Europe, but also in the USA, Canada, China, Australia and South Africa to mention but a few. International partnerships cover both research and teaching activities. Graduate students can take advantage of international agreements between the department and other internationally recognized institutions to apply for a master and, in some cases, for a PhD programme in English-, French- or German-speaking countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Automotive Engineering; Electrical Engineering and Information Technology; Computer Science; Mechanical Engineering; Medical Informatics; Micro- and Medicaltechnology; Industrial Engineering and Management Science

Master Programmes

Biomedical Engineering (in cooperation with the University of Bern); Engineering (in cooperation with the Department Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering and other Swiss UASs)

Research Institutes

Institute for Applied Laser, Photonics and Surface Technologies; Institute for Energy and Mobility Research; Institute for Human Centered Engineering; Institute for ICT-Based Management; Institute for Medical Informatics; Institute for Optimisation and Data Analysis; Institute for Print Technology; Institute for Rehabilitation and Performance Technology; Research Institute for Security in the Information Society

Health Professions

The Department of Health Professions is part of the Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH. It is an operational business unit that is largely autonomous and provides an entire range of services, including degree and further education courses, offers support services and undertakes applied research and development.

Bachelor Programmes

Midwifery; Nursing; Nutrition and Dietetics; Physiotherapy

Master Programmes

Life Sciences – Food, Nutrition and Health (in cooperation with BFH School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, FHNW, HES-SO and ZHAW); Midwifery; Nursing; Nutrition and Dietetics; Physiotherapy

Fields of research

Outcome Orientation and Sustainability in Healthcare: Psychosocial Health, Health Promotion, Prevention; Assessments, Interventions, Outcomes; Specialist personnel – Development and Challenges

School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences

The School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences provides unique bachelor degree courses in French and German, and three master programmes in English. Its expertise is in application-based research and development services in close cooperation with companies, institutions and organisations from the farming and forestry sectors and the food industry. It is involved in over 70 projects in more than 20 countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Agriculture; Food Science; Forest Science

Master Programme

Life Sciences – Agricultural Sciences (in cooperation with FHNW, HES-SO and ZHAW), Life Sciences – Forest Sciences (in cooperation with FHNW, HES-SO, Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Germany and ZHAW); Life Sciences – Food, Nutrition and Health (in cooperation with BFH Health Professions, FHNW, HES-SO and ZHAW)

Fields of research

Multifunctional Forest Management; Food Processing and Consumption; Resource-Efficient Agricultural Production Systems

Social Work

The Department of Social Work is proud of its numerous international cooperation partners. To encourage the international exchange of students and lecturers it works closely together with mainly European universities. In addition to exchange semesters and internships abroad, study trips and foreign language modules are offered. It also provides aspects of globalisation in all projects, international comparisons as the preferred educational tool, and specific courses to prepare graduates to work in an internationally oriented environment.

Bachelor Programmes

Social Work

Master Programmes

Social Work (in cooperation with Lucerne and St. Gallen Universities of Applied Sciences)

Fields of research

Social Security; Social Organisation; Social Intervention and Old Age

Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen

The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen is also part of the Federal Office of Sport of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport. It fosters a large national and international network in the domain of sport activities, physical activities, physical education as well as health education and policy of sport.

Bachelor Programme

Sport

Master Programmes

Sports (specialisations in elite sport and management of sport), Sport Sciences (specialisations in “Physical Education” and “Health and Research” in cooperation with University of Fribourg)

Fields of research

Three main lines of research: detection of performance-limiting factors in elite sports, and their improvement by means of training and other interventions; sport pedagogic analysis of different physical education settings; sport economics and sport management

Further Information and Contact Details

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