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MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Report 2025

BFH in 2025: more students and a record funding of research projects to ensure a future-proof canton

Bern, 04.05.2026 – In the financial year 2025, Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH achieved record figures in research and continuing education, gained new students and launched pioneering study programmes. BFH has thus responded to the current challenges facing the canton of Berne. The financial result improved compared to the previous year.

In 2025, a higher number of young people chose to study at Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH) and student numbers continued to grow (by 14 percent since 2019). This is no coincidence, but the result of a higher education institution that gives relevant answers to societal questions and makes a targeted contribution to securing the next generation of skilled workers.

Four new degree programmes, four answers to tomorrow's challenges

The bachelor's degree programmes in Landscape Architecture and in Transformation Design strengthen the development towards sustainability – in the canton and beyond. In addition, the master's degree programmes in Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation and in Digital Government contribute to the competitiveness of the economy and the efficiency of administration.

“Demand is growing and so is BFH. We train specialists and managers to develop solutions for tomorrow's problems – problems we don't know about yet. This requires research of the highest standard, teaching that embraces innovation – and a university that takes responsibility,” explains BFH President, Prof. Dr Sebastian Wörwag.

Equally positive results in research and continuing education

The external funds for research reached CHF 58.5 million, a new record. Since 2021, BFH has thus increased its external funds by almost 40 percent. A record figure of CHF 24.6 million was also achieved in continuing education. In this area, it is worth mentioning the new compact Short Advanced Studies (SAS), which allow the development of targeted skills in a short, modular format that reflects current market trends.

Improved financial result: on the right path

As a one-off special effect, BFH was able to release provisions for pension liabilities in the amount of CHF 22.9 million, as the Bernese pension fund BPK achieved a coverage ratio of over 100% at the end of 2025. However, BFH outperformed its budgeted figures even without this. After adjustment to this one-off special effect, the operating result stands at CHF -2.5 million (2024: CHF -12.4 million). The Executive Council of the Canton of Bern increased the cantonal contribution for 2025 by CHF 9.4 million in comparison with the previous year. Of this amount, CHF 7.4 million were affected to the reduction of BFH's structural underfunding, which has arisen over the years as a result of salary decisions made by the Canton of Bern that were not financed. This measure has substantially eased BFH's financial situation, even if the structural underfunding has not yet been remedied.



Consequently, negative operational results are also expected in forthcoming years, resulting in a further reduction in the core funding reserves.

A positive impact beyond the campus

Stories reveal what numbers do not show. BFH's Annual Report 2025 depicts the positive impact of our work, from promoting mental health in rural areas to start-ups in the arts. Our institution educates people, accompanies transformation and is at the heart of society.

About BFH

Through its applied-research projects and innovative education programmes, Bern University of Applied Sciences participates in the strategic thematic fields of Caring Society, Humane Digital Transformation and Sustainable Development. With 32 bachelor's and 27 master's degree programmes, in-depth research, consulting services and a wide range of continuing education courses, BFH's profile is characterised by its practical, interdisciplinary and international orientation. The seven schools have sites in various locations in Bern, Biel, Burgdorf and Zollikofen. BFH welcomes students from all over the world.

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